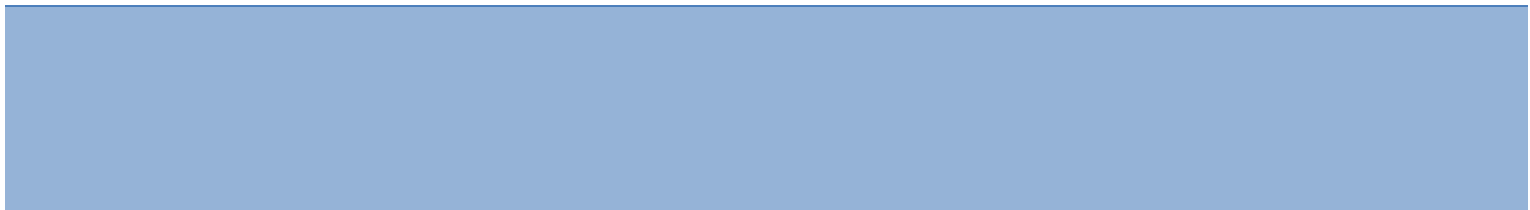




INTERIM NARRATIVE REPORT

**Democracy and Development in Action, through Media and
Empowerment (DAME)**



INTERIM NARRATIVE REPORT

1. Description

- 1.1. Name of beneficiary of grant contract: Search for Common Ground
- 1.2. Name and title of the Contact person: Jose Francisco de Sousa – Country Director
- 1.3. Name of partners in the Action: Belun
- 1.4. Title of the Action: Democracy and Development in Action, through Media and Empowerment (DAME)
- 1.5. Contract number: FED/2012/284-404
- 1.6. Start date and end date of the reporting period: 23 of August 2012 – 22 of August 2013
- 1.7. Target country (ies) or region(s): Timor-Leste - 13 Districts
- 1.8. Final beneficiaries &/or target groups¹ (if different) (including numbers of women and men):

Target groups: Staff from 3 national NGOs (30; SFCG-TL, BELUN, Forum Tau Matan) and 3 umbrella organisations (CNJTL, FONGTIL & Press Club); Local level NSA staff and members (34*10 = 340); National and Local Government actors (25*5=125); Timorese media professionals (60); Timorese youth leaders (approximately 350, aged 15 to 29), and Timorese youth (approximately 1040) and EWER CPRN members (2275, 35 members in each of 65 sub-districts),

Final Beneficiary: Timorese citizens from all 13 districts (potentially hundreds of thousands).

¹ “Target groups” are the groups/entities who will be directly positively affected by the project at the Project Purpose level, and “final beneficiaries” are those who will benefit from the project in the long term at the level of the society or sector at large.

2. Assessment of implementation of Action activities

2.1. Executive summary of the Action

The DAME project contract was signed on 22nd of August 2012 and the first year of implementation proved to be a learning process, for SFCG and for its partners and associates. Most of the delays in the project reflect the realities of implementing projects in Timor-Leste such as challenges in the timely recruitment of staff and associated complications with logistics when working in the Districts. Despite the challenges there were also many successes such as the conducting of the baseline survey, DOSAs, National and District youth forum, Youth Civic Leadership Training, forming constructive working relationships with community radio and the engagement of communities through NSA Government dialogues.

One of the focus areas of the DAME project is the strengthening of capacity of SFCG, networks and all project partners and beneficiaries. In line with this objective SFCG spent time with its partners Belun, FONGTIL, CNJTL, TLMDC and Forum Tau Matan to develop Scope of Works and workplans as well as collaboration in the coordination of activities. The SFCG Media Team worked in close cooperation with 16 community radio stations all around Timor-Leste and provided coaching to priority community radio stations such as Ainaro and Suai. Through this cooperation and coordination SFCG were able to build partner's capacities as well as building capacities of the staff within the organisation itself, ensuring the sustainability of the project's objectives.

During the second half of the year the two small grants programs: CSDI (Conflict Sensitive Development Initiative) and YES (Youth Entrepreneurship Services) were launched. Also during this time, FONGTIL were able to start the NSA Government dialogues in some Districts and are now planning to conduct trainings to local government officials together with SFCG and Belun in the second year. Forum Tau Matan has successfully trained debate teams in three regions and will hold the debates in the first quarter of the second year.

Through these above activities and in addition to the District Youth Forum, SFCG and its partners have been able to successfully build relationships with District level government, youth, students and other non-state actors. While SFCG has built some relationships with National Government, the second year will focus on building more relationships with other key Ministries and Secretariats of State and independent authorities.

2.2. Activities and results

A detailed description of project's activities carried from 23rd August 2012 to 22nd August 2013, as per expected results as follows:

EXPECTED RESULT 1: Verifiably strengthened operational, technical and financial capabilities for national and local NSAs and NSA networks, as well as media and youth organisations involved in the project
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Activity 1: SFCG-TL Baseline Report

In August 2012 SFCG-TL began to collect indicators over 15 days for post-project evaluations, using cost share funds from USAID, to measure actual results against original DAME objectives. Research was carried out in 6 Districts: Baucau, Aileu, Dili, Manatuto, Ermera and Liquica, 12 sub-districts and 23 Sucos with 1,431 respondents (Please see full Baseline publication attached as Annex 1). The assessment was conducted amongst four separate demographics in Timor-Leste – youth, government affiliates, NGO affiliates and the

public. The thematic areas covered in the surveys included: youth participation in peacebuilding, radio listenership, NGO organisational capacity, and the understanding of youth issues in Timor-Leste.

SFCG-TL hired sixteen independent researchers from the Peace Center, National University of Timor-Leste for data collection from youth and public and hired corresponding six district coordinators of Belun, to collect data and information from Government officials, NGOs and media organisations, and a SFCG supervisor was deployed in each of the six districts. A total of 601 youth, 383 public, 294 Government officials and 153 NGO officials were interviewed

Results from the assessment indicate that respondents perceive the role of youth as important in moving the peace process forward, yet respondents were split over having an understanding of the current issues Timorese youth face. It was also found that there was little to no understanding of conflict sensitive development. Through the DAME project activities, there will be a significant increase in the percentage of these two indicators as per the logframe and results are already evident through implementation of activities so far.

The baseline report also revealed significant gender imbalance among youth participants regarding political participation within the democratisation and electoral processes, as well as in peacebuilding and conflict resolution initiatives. In response, SFCG-TL continues to expand their outreach strategies, devising approaches to attract more young women and encouraging them to take on significant leadership roles.

Dissemination Plan

In July 2013, SFCG presented results of the baseline study at the 2013 Timor-Leste Studies Association (TLSA) conference, Understanding Timor-Leste 2013, which took place in Dili at UNTL. SFCG-TL will host a report launch where a film on the findings will be debuted in October 2013. SFCG will continue to widely disseminate the results from the Baseline Report, both electronically and hard copies.

Activity 2: Development of Organisational Development and Conflict Transformation ToT Toolkits

In the first quarter of the DAME project, SFCG was actively engaged with its main partner and an associate, respectively Belun and FONGTIL, toward developing two unique toolkits, one on Organisational Development (OD) and the other on Conflict Transformation (CT). Each toolkit will be available online where they may be viewed as a pair or separately. The completion process required Belun, FONGTIL and SFCG to work collectively and independently in an effort to decide on content material layout. After a series of consortium meetings, both parties concluded that packaging them as separate entities will be most useful for those choosing to either focus on conflict transformation or organisational development.

More specifically, Belun has developed a 50-page draft conflict transformation toolkit that has been shared with SFCG for their review. An additional section on ‘Conflict Sensitive Development’ was most recently prepared for inclusion in the final toolkit. Belun is now preparing to pilot test the toolkits. The publications will be a tool not only for SFCG and its consortium, but also a valuable resource for other development partners engaged in activities. SFCG’s team will work closely with the government, I/NGOs, universities, and others to widely disseminate the toolkit in Timor-Leste. They will be made available on all consortiums Partner and Associates’ websites and manuals will also be distributed using the East Timor Action Network (ETAN). Please see attached Toolkit in Annex 2 for more details.

Activity 3: Trainings of Trainers (ToTs) on Organisational Development and Conflict Transformation: Dili with 19 participants for 7 days on the 5, 6, 7, 14, 15, and 16 of August

Conducted at the end of year one, the Trainings of Trainers (ToT) focused on leadership, organisational communication and team building skills toward a deeper understand of conflict transformation. The ToT lasted for seven days, with participants coming from SFCG-TL and partner organisations: SFCG-TL, 2 staff; BELUN, 7 staff; FONGTIL, 5 staff; CNJTL, 3 staff; Forum Tau Matan and TLMDC, one staff each.

Facilitated by Invest People (IP), the trainings were designed to promote personal and institutional development by empowering SFCG professional staff and partners toward preparing them to better perform their roles as leaders, particularly in understanding team building and communication. The improvement of these technical, behavioural and social competencies are being focused on toward the development of higher levels of performance in their responsibilities. The training was specifically designed for SFCG professionals and partners to broaden their knowledge in leadership process/ Leadership & Team Building, as well as Effective Communication sessions, called for trainees' full participation based on practical examples founded on current working matters and their daily professional experiences. The theoretical approach on "tools" and techniques allow them to apply knowledge into real working environment, and the practical exercises developed during the classes led to an intensive training of theoretical concepts and methodologies to be used in real scenario.

Activity 4: Organisational capacity assessments for 106 target NSAs

In total FONGTIL carried out 34 Discussion-Oriented Organisational Self-Assessments (DOSAs) and Belun completed 43 DOSAs, indicating that 73% of the assessments have been completed. Please refer to Annex 3 and 4, which lists all of the capacity assessments that have been carried out by FONGTIL and Belun respectively. Both organisations are in the process of analysing the data and will generate a report. Despite the completion of the bulk of the DOSAs, there have been delays with the assessment of the 16 partner community radio stations, as SFCG's media associate, TLMDC, does not at present have the human resources to conduct the activities. Additionally, the DOSAs scheduled for the Youth Councils across all 13 districts have similarly been delayed due to human resource shortages and capacity. To remedy this issue, SFCG has devised a plan in conjunction with their Youth and Media Teams, to carry out both the radio station and youth council DOSAs.

To move forward on the remaining assessments with youth and radio entities, SFCG's teams will conduct a questionnaire pilot test for both in late September, and systematically carry out the rest of the DOSAs over the following months. Thus, SFCG will start with a 2-day questionnaire pilot test in Liquica, including a debriefing of the questionnaire and assessment methodology. The interviewer/facilitators of the pilot test in Liquica will involve all SFCG project managers, DM&E staff and the Director of Programs. Henceforth, assessment methods for Community Radio and Youth organisations are to include individual interviews and focus group discussions (FGDs). These activities will require a minimum of 5 people to take part from Community Radio and CJD, which will include managers/coordinator; general support staff including finance, board members and youth suco council representatives.

Activity 6: Conflict Sensitive Development Initiatives Grants

Activities for CSDI Grants began in May 2013 with the recruitment of Small Grants Manager, Antonio Soares. Following recruitment, the panel was formed with members from SFCG (2

persons), Belun (2 persons), CNJTL (2 persons) and FONGTIL (1 person). The panel then developed Terms of Reference, application and guidelines. Once these documents were finalised, all of Belun's District Coordinators gathered in Dili to attend training on socialisation of procedures on applying for grants, monitoring and evaluation and the District Coordinator's role in the CSDI grants. A total of 25 people attended the training.

The CSDI grants program was officially launched on 12 July, attended by DAME program partners, stakeholders and media with speakers from NAO, Secretary of State for Youth and Sport (SEJD), SFCG-TL, Belun, CNJTL and FONGTIL, amounting to a total of 42 people attending the launch. CPRNs were then officially invited to prepare and submit their proposals/expressions of interest. Media also attended the launch and press releases were widely distributed to media. As per ToR, the panel began meeting on a fortnightly basis on 15 and 29 July, and on 13 August. Proposals were reviewed and selected on 13 August and of the 6 proposals received, 2 have been approved. See Annex 5 for details of proposals approved in the report period.

There may be risks in delay of progress of CSDI grants as proposals that need to be sent back for revision has to go through the District Coordinator who come to Dili once a month and after which the proposal will then be passed on to the CPRN, which may be in a distant Sub-District. Also the period of implementation is short when considering the length of time it takes to receive and send back proposals for review in addition to implementation and monitoring and evaluation. To mitigate these risks, the panel will actively engage with Belun DCs and CPRNs.

Activity 7: Youth Entrepreneurship Service (YES) Grants

Initial activities are in line with CSDI activities including recruitment of Small Grants Manager and the establishment of small grants panel (same members as CSDI). Unlike the CSDI, the YES grants were socialised to CJD (Concelho Joventude Distrito) Coordinators after the official launch on 2 August with 20 participants including panel members. The open call for proposals took place on 5 August but no proposals had been received for YES grants.

In terms of risks, potential delays may occur, as CNJTL and CJD are comprised of volunteers, so there may not be full participation due to limited resources and funds. CJD in each District are the ones who receive proposals, so to encourage socialisation activities, SFCG have decided to give CJDs a small communication budget. Also to encourage full participation of panel members, and effective review and selection of proposals, all panel meetings are catered.

EXPECTED RESULT 2: Increased capacity and mechanisms for NSA and local and national government to collaborate more effectively via improved inclusive dialogue, coordination and partnership

Activity 1: Issue Identification (Research)

With strong support from the Belun researcher who started work on 1 March 2013, the organisation led in the identification of the research topic of martial arts group, focussing on the effects of the recent closing down of three prominent martial arts groups. The team then designed research methodology and wrote a literature review in March and April 2013. Qualitative research through interviews and discussion groups was carried out in five Districts of Dili, Baucau, Ermera, Bobonaro and Covalima from May to July 2013.

The researcher held discussion groups and interviews with Martial Arts leaders, community leaders, local authorities and also some organisations in the Districts, with total number of 139 participants (FGD 91 participants in 7 groups and one-on-one interview 48 people). However the participation of women in the activity was low because they don't have access to information or they did not consider that their participation was important. Also it was observed that they are reluctant to come along because they feel uncomfortable to be in a meeting/discussion together with a lot of men.

Activity 3: NSA-Government Dialogues/Coordination Meetings

On 28 May 2013, FONGTIL District Coordinators were organised and facilitated on the need to prepare ToR for each District Dialogue. District Coordinators were asked to prepare written ToR based on the needs of the District. During monitoring of Maubara dialogue, SFCG found that the activity was not carried out in dialogue manner and style and it was more of a socialisation where presenters spoke and the audience asked questions. As the presentation was lengthy, the time allocated for questions was short. In contrast, the Ermera dialogue had more time allocated to questions, as the facilitator was strict in time allocation to presenters. As dialogues are organised and facilitated by District Coordinators there are differing levels of skills. In consideration of this, SFCG has taken the approach to provide dialogue training using SFCG modules for all District Coordinators. FONGTIL are also exploring the possibility to combine this activity with a similar activity on dialogues on decentralisation that is being implemented by HASATIL with funds from an IMVF program, also funded by EDF, in order to increase the number and type of beneficiaries.

The details of the District dialogues that were held in Ermera, Viqueque, and Maubara, a Sub-District of Liquica, can be found in Annex 6.

Activity 4: Youth Forums at National and District Levels

In the first year, six District fora and one national forum were held. The National youth forum, an activity that is cost shared with USAID-funded YEPS program, brought together youth from all 13 Districts together in Dili whereas District youth forum, solely funded by the DAME program, brought youth from sub-Districts together to the District capital. The fora gave youth opportunities to dialogue with panel speakers as well as with each other. The main objective of holding fora is to provide an open space for youth to discuss challenges and concerns they face in their daily lives and seek realistic solutions.

"I am happy to be able to participate in this forum because it is an opportunity to share information to our fellow youth in Ermera District about my work in helping my fellow disabled young people, to ensure we have the same rights as normal people such as access to education, training, treatment and therapy for the disabled."

Paulus (disabled/RHTO: *Raes Hadomi Timor Oan*), Ermera

Each two-day District youth forum brought together 40 youth, target ages of 17-29, comprised of a diverse array of young people with activities spread over two sessions: dialogue with SAs and open space technology. The first day involved presentations from invited speakers to talk about the main topic of "Transformation of Youth", as well as on the topic of "Youth and Decentralisation" and "Youth and Security" or other topics identified as relevant to the District. After the panel discussion, youth participants were then facilitated in Open Space activity. This model uses a participatory approach where they are asked to individually identify issues they face in their home District. Issues are then grouped together and those people then form groups and discuss the issues in detail. Open Space methodology

is unique in that participants are free to move from group to group and join another discussion group or they can choose to stay in the group during the session.

In order to save on logistics and costs, the first four District Youth Fora in Oecusse, Baucau, Ermera and Ainaro were held straight after the Regional Civic Leadership Training. (Details of the National forum and each District forum can be found in Annex 7.)

As the District Forum had a limited budget, it was logistically difficult to maintain but by coordinating the CLTs and the DYF to take place in the same District capital over two week period, significant savings were made. Another factor was that during the proposal writing process, there was miscalculation in required budget by CNJTL, who had no previous experience of organising a District forum before. This also led to the SFCG Youth team taking the decision to provide support to CNJTL in organising the District fora hence logistics took up a lot of budget in regards to transport, accommodation and per diem. In terms of relations with partners, the youth team found that unclear report formatting and requirements had caused miscommunication between SFCG and partner organisations. To address this, the youth team plans to meet with partners to establish a standard reporting format so that SFCG will receive regular updates from each partner before the end of each quarter.

SFCG's partnership with CNJTL worked well at national level in Dili, however at the District level it was difficult to coordinate with some District Youth Councils such as with Ermera and Viqueque. District Youth Council coordinators in Lautem and Covalima were inactive and the same was found in Bobonaro District. In general it was found that the sub-District youth council coordinators were more active in organising and selecting youth participants as well as during facilitation of the open space.

There were many logistical limitations during the forums, such as limited timing for deep discussion, catering in Oecusse, certification distribution in Ermera and Ainaro, not enough time in between the end of Civic Leadership Training and beginning of DYF. These challenges required the youth team to be flexible and adapt quickly to address problems as they arose. The youth team will also allocate more time to the dialogue session and take a "back seat" for the next round of DYF, enabling CNJTL and CJD to lead the fora.

Different ways to use the forum, such as a means for disseminating information, for playing radio programs and gathering feedback and ideas, and for connecting youth with local leaders were discovered during the fora. This can be used to maximise the overall impact of the forum on youth and to simultaneously improve SFCG's presence and impact through activities in the districts. Also the high rate of female participation in all forums shows that they are more active, curious and showing more spirit and SFCG will look at increasing the meaningful participation of young women.

Activity 5: Civic Education Seminars, National University Debates, and Panel Discussions

For this activity, which is cost shared with YEPS program; Forum Tau Matan took a process-orientated approach. Results include roll out of training for three regions with planned debates and national debate before the end of the year. The remaining two regional debates in Ainaro and Ermera will take place in 2014. However, the national debate may involve debate teams from Gleno and Aileu that have already been trained and involved in debate teams in a previous FTM program. See Annex 8 for details of the debate cycle and trainings.

As there have been delays in activities due to unexpected causes such as resignation and recruitment of Executive Director and the absence of program manager for the month of July

due to illness, the SFCG team provided assistance and support such as advice on managing the budget to suit their needs and developing a revised workplan. There were also unexpected results from participating institutions and also restrictions to debate teams comprising of currently enrolled students even though there was the option of including alumni, some campuses such as IOB and DIT chose to have only current students attend training and be chosen for debate teams. Institutions from Oecusse and Dili involved some alumni.

There were some modifications that occurred during implementation such as students not being able to attend training due to timing, such as field research commitments for students from Lospalos. Also debate formats are new to students so there is no guarantee that it will turn out well despite FTM's efforts to provide training. Communication between institutions and FTM were not always effective and some students and debate coordinators from the institutions thought that they would go straight into the debates without attending training.

As it was the first time that FTM had organised a debate in the Districts it became a learning experience for them, which involved mapping of universities as well as meeting with the coordinators and chancellors etc. Although FTM had organised debates with institutions in the Districts in previous programs, debaters were brought to Dili for training and debates.

There were also issues of lack of transportation as sometimes the team had to rely on public transport when delivering trainings or travel by motorcycle during periods of heavy rain. Another delay resulted from misunderstanding of financial system, as FTM's finance person did not put in a proposal when making budget request to SFCG, which has now been resolved.

As partners, SFCG has found that FTM needed a lot of support in planning and implementation of workplans as well as in logistics but this may have been due to the period of absence of an Executive Director. SFCG now coordinates closely with FTM as well as providing support in the monitoring and evaluation of their activities.

Activity 6: Civic Leadership Trainings

To kick off this activity, Search for Common Ground Timor-Leste convened a Civic Leadership Training (CLT), led by Shawn Dunning, director for SFCG's Leadership Wisdom Initiative Training of Trainers Civic Leadership, and assisted by SFCG Volunteer, Filomena dos Reis. The ToT was held in Dare, with 24 participants over 4 days on 2, 3, 4, and 5 February. Participants were identified as leaders in their own communities, including members of the SFCG youth program staff, members of the National Youth Council, selected youth leaders from around the country, and members of the Youth Parliament. Developed to sharpen the youths' non-adversarial advocacy skills and employing an experiential learning method, the training explored concepts that include authentic leadership, leadership vision, cooperative problem solving, effective communication and decision-making, among many more. The leadership training also aimed to build relationships across dividing lines as the participants are inline to play key roles in community peacebuilding, particularly as many of them come from conflict-affected villages.

Under the guidance of Mr. Dunning, trainee facilitators comprising of five SFCG, two CNJTL and 2 youth trainee facilitators from Liquica, led a core group of participants in a pilot test exercise in Maubara, Liquica the following week as an extension of the ToT, designed to give them a first hand experience in conducting their own leadership trainings for peers in their own communities. From the 25 participants, one was not able to complete the training because he fell sick and had to leave the next day. During the pilot Mr Dunning observed the facilitators and debriefed the facilitator team after each activity and helped the team to change their strategy whenever an activity was not going well or there was a need to do a different activity that was more suitable to the situation. As it was a pilot some participants felt that it was the usual leadership training and were not interested in participating fully. However, by facilitating reflection session with trainee facilitators, participants were able to appreciate the objectives and results of the activities and its relevance to real life.

SFCG, in collaboration with CNJTL, then conducted a series of four regional Civic Leadership Trainings in Oecusse, Baucau, Ainaro, and Ermera. The expected turnout for each three day training session was 25 youth, aged 17-29, but in reality the number of participants varied as can be seen in Annex 9. In total, 94 youth (49 male, 45 female) participated. Unfortunately, some confirmed participants were unable to attend due to unforeseen circumstances. For example, in Baucau five participants were not able to attend due to a Martial Arts Group conflict. Where possible trainers that attended the ToT training were also brought in to co-facilitate together with SFCG staff and CNJTL volunteers. During these sessions, participants were encouraged to explore all aspects of leadership and team building. The purpose of the training is to help youth discover their untapped leadership potential and to encourage them to use their skills to contribute and play a more meaningful role in their community. Thus, an experiential learning process was used as a learning tool to facilitate the process, allowing more “self-experiments” for participants, leading to reflections and connections between lessons and their real lives. Activities will expand participants’ comfort zones and require reliance on team members to successfully navigate team challenges.



The Youth and Community Peacebuilding team developed criteria for selecting participants as defined in the ToR and guided by the project proposal. Ages of the participants ranged from 16 to 29 and to those who are involved in community development such as through NGO, youth councils, youth centers, martial arts groups, etc. Some other youth were identified through youth mapping that was carried out last year from the USAID funded YEPS project.

The team conducted an assessment of the District one month before training to determine venue, meet with ToT trainees and with District Youth Councils and District Youth Centers. The venue was then booked and participants were confirmed by telephone one week prior to the training. Trainers then travelled to the venue two days prior to a training to carry out preparations.

During the second lot of trainings that took place in Ermera and Ainaro on June 19-21 SFCG and CNJTL facilitators were more confident and able to give clear instructions and carry out observations based on lessons from previous trainings. They also learned to be better at debriefing after their experience in Oecusse where debriefing was slightly lacking. For this occasion the team developed a daily schedule for facilitators on debriefing throughout

trainings. Through this process, main topics were covered and objectives were achieved, citing feedback received by the DM&E team in reflections from the trainings in Baucau and Oecusse. The team members were more confident in facilitation and able to hold effective reflections even if participants did not quite grasp the concepts behind the activities. Through the debriefing they learned cooperative problem solving, aided but not guided by the facilitators, as the main objective was for participants to discover and for facilitators to guide the discovery rather than providing the answers. Participants in Oecusse asked for other districts to take part in the next training as well as District Forum which will be realised in the second year of activities and will involve youth from Bobonaro and Covalima, particularly from those Sub-Districts along the border.

“This leadership training has helped me greatly to understand about values of success as a team. I learnt that differences are normal and success that has high quality is based on consideration of all individuals contributing to a process. Today I made a reflection that in many things I have made mistakes in my organisation. Many times I want my idea to be accepted by everyone and when there were ideas that contradicted mine I ignored that person in my organisation. When I go back I will call them to improve my relationship with them.”

Sancho, Civic Leadership Training Ermera

Several significant learning outcomes were measured via pre- and post-assessments administered before and after the trainings. All CLTs showed an overall increase in knowledge and understanding of what is entailed in leadership as a whole. For example in Baucau, there was an average 46% increase in understanding of leadership among CLT participants while post-test results also revealed a vast change in participant understanding of the appropriate method for decision-making (0% to 61% change in ‘collaboration’).

EXPECTED RESULT 3: A better informed population about NSA activities as well as democratisation, policy making, and conflict sensitive development processes

Activity 1: Trainings on “Common Ground” Approach

1.1 Rumour Management Training

This training was undertaken during 3 days from 29-31 October 2012 and 24 young media professionals from all over Timor-Leste came together in Dili. Here, lively sessions were delivered to help burgeoning journalists deepen their understanding of ways to handle the spread of harmful rumors, encouraging them to play active role in strengthening democracy in Timor-Leste.



Welcoming remarks were presented by SFCG-TL Country Director, Jose de Sousa and Timor Leste’s Secretary of State for Social Communication, Nelio Isac Sarmiento. Here, participants were reminded of the importance of their work during this time of transition and how crucial it is for all media professionals to be acutely aware of the positive role they can play in conflict resolution. The training was co-facilitated by Agus Nahrowi, SFCG Program Manager from Indonesia and Yubakar Rajkarnikar, SFCG Media Manager from Nepal who incorporated these key sentiments into interactive training sessions, exploring ways to prevent and avoid spread of rumors among the

airwaves and in print. The young journalists explored ways they can become key players in mitigating adverse situations often created by injurious, inaccurate information.

1.2 Common Ground Talkshow Training

On March 20-22, 2013, the media team organised and delivered a national training for 15 talk show presenters in Dili, which lasted three days. The media team worked together to launch the training, while the Media Team Manager, Ana Sequeira led in the training components. Participants were from community radio Maliana, Tokodede-Liquica, Povu Viqueque, Bucoli-Baucau, Matebian-Baucau, Voxpopuli Lospalos-Lautem, Rai Husar-Aileu, Mauloko Maubisse-Ainaro, Tatamailau-Ainaro, Boaventura-Manufahi, Cova Taroman-Covalima, Atoni Lifau-Oecusse, Lorico Lian-Dili, Liberdadi-Dili and JojoFM-Dili. The purpose of radio talk show training was to improve the capacity of presenter to host the show; to strengthen community radio in transforming conflict through radio talk shows; and to achieve production of the 288 shows that have been planned within the agreements. During the three-day training, 15 participants received intensive trainings on how to plan talk shows, including the identification of issues, identifying sources and questions and on moderating the overall show. Key focus points were on how to ask questions and how to handle difficult speakers while on the air. Sessions were also comprised of role plays where participants presented their own shows, followed by discussion.

The media team also brought in two speakers, including the president of CNJTL, Mr. Leovigildo Hornai and the president of Journalist Association (AJTL), Mr. Tito Filipe. They shared issues concerning youth today and covered essential media ethics. According to pre- and post-training questionnaires, 100 per cent of participants reported the training to be helpful and 93 per cent stated that they had identified topics to use during their own productions.

Despite the challenges, community radios are ready to be involved in the next production and they will need intensive mentoring during the production process. This mentoring will be conducted to make sure that the quality and content are good.

Activity 2: Media for Democracy and Conflict-Sensitive Development

2.1 Public Outreach Service Announcements

This activity is cost-shared with YEPS program and during the past year, two POSAs have been produced in relation to CSDI and YES grants, solely funded by DAME, both on 16 August. The CSDI POSA features a scene of a conflict and the message is that conflicts can be resolved and that small grants are available for CPRNs to apply for. The YES POSA features youth talking about their future and an announcement that grants are available for youth groups to establish businesses.

Due to the limited capacity of community radio to produce POSAs themselves, due to several factors such as lack of resources, lack of access to information and confidence to hold meetings with stakeholders. The media team will develop a strategy to provide training in POSA production to all partner community radio stations over a period of three days. The first day will be on developing POSA messages after hearing presentations from guest speakers, and for the following two days, the trainees will do on-the-job training where they will go directly into the studio to produce 3 POSAs each. If there are any radio stations that cannot attend the training, the media team will provide on-site training and mentoring.

2.2 Weekly Radio Talkshows

This activity is also cost-shared with YEPS and to date there have been no talkshows from community radio. The community radio stations have tried to identify the issues by themselves, including what the main problem is in their district. It was found that despite attending training, community radio need mentoring and on-site training, particularly in planning talkshows. Also community radio stated that they did not feel confident to host talkshows and could not provide transport fee for guests to come to the community radio or to come to studio at night as some Districts only have electricity at night time. Hence the media has begun to focus on building the capacities of community radio stations through on-site training to all partner community radio, as well as one-on-one coaching to two selected community radio stations in Suai and Ainaro.

One live talkshow was held on UN International Youth Day on 12 August 2013 at Largo de Lcidere with panel guests including the Secretary of State for Vocational Training and Employment Policy, President of CNJTL and two ex-youth parliament members. This talkshow will be produced into a 30 minute program and distributed to community radio to be broadcast.

Activity 3: Nationally Televised Panel Discussions

This activity was planned to be implemented during the first year of the project. As per August 2013, SFCG and its partner TLMDC were able to record and start editing one televised program focusing on the Youth Forum, which was conducted in Oecusse. Once editing is finished, it will be broadcast on National Television (RTTL).

SFCG encountered a number of issues which affected the progress of this activity, including the limited capacity of its partners to implement their work plan; most of the televised activities were designed to be tailored with the activities which will be implemented by Partners such as the University Debate and Panel Discussion by FTM, NSA – Government National and District Dialogues by FONGTIL. SFCG is in the process of redesigning this televised program, which will give us flexibility and opportunity to produce and distribute a more relevant, innovative, unique televised program that will promote positive models of change in relation to good governance and youth-based issues in Timor-Leste.

2.3. Activities were planned and not able to be implemented.

Four planned activities that were not able to be implemented were:

Result 1, Activity 5: Trainings on organisational development (OD), and conflict and gender-sensitive community development for 106 target NSAs

Both Belun and FONGTIL are in the process of preparing for the post-assessment trainings. Currently, all partners involved are finalising manuals for the trainings, based on results. As mentioned, all of the Belun CPRN networks have received an assessment and have received analysed results. FONGTIL is currently in the process of analysing results. Similarly, SFCG will prepare follow-up trainings for youth organisations and community radio stations once the DOSAs have been carried out.

Henceforth, respective coordinators will be tailoring the training according to results from the assessments. Both organisations have expressed the need for closer coordination in the next year of implementation, particularly on this activity.

Result 2, Activity 2: Regional Trainings for Government Officials

As this activity is dependent on the development of Conflict Transformation and Organisational Development ToT toolkits (Result 1, Activity 2) and the analysis of the results from the DOSAs (Result 1, Activity 4), this activity has been delayed and will begin in Year 2. One of the causes of postponement of this activity is because The Government of Timor-Leste has also been active in the socialisation of its decentralisation program which involves all the District Administrators so timing will also be critical, as all District Administrators and District Development Officers will be actively involved in the process. SFCG, Belun and FONGTIL are now developing a ToR to be discussed with the Ministry of State Administration, followed by the development of detail workplan for conducting the training. In order to secure the commitment from the government the workplan needs to be agreed upon before the training takes place.

Result 3, Activity 2: Media for Democracy and Conflict-Sensitive Development

Public Outreach Service Announcements (POSAs) and weekly talkshows were not able to be implemented due to the limited capacity and human resources, as well as internal management issues of community radio stations. SFCG has been active in providing training and coaching and will seek the support in coordination from the Secretariat of State for Social Communication and Community Radio Centre. Also once the DOSAs results are received and analysed, SFCG will be able to identify the underlying problems and target training to address these issues.

2.4 Overall Assessment

Activity 1

For the Organisation Development Toolkit, FONGTIL have an existing toolkit, which will be updated once the results of the DOSAs has been compiled and analysed.

YES grants have been established but not many proposals fit the criteria as yet. Youth have limited understanding of applying for grants that involve income-generating activities and have been submitting proposals based on implementing activities that are not sustainable or that are one-off. Previous projects such as World Bank's Youth Development Program and Government's PDD and PDL provided funds for infrastructure projects and sporting events, which may have influenced the type of proposals that have been submitted so far. During the small grant funds trainings to Districts Coordinators, information on application form and guidelines had been thoroughly presented. However, DCs do not always assist groups to apply for grants. It has been observed that some of the CJD (Youth District Councils) are not so active in engaging with youth as they are volunteers or hold a paying job elsewhere and some have not been active for some time. From this experience SFCG has identified the need for more outreach activities on youth entrepreneurship and has sought advice from IADE on issues of training and sustainability as they have just recently run a competition for youth – led business development. To be able to understand this further SFCG will be conducting DOSAs on each CJD in Year 2. One negative impact has been that CJDs are not allowed to apply for grants themselves and support from Government of Timor-Leste has not been continuous. An unforeseen possible negative outcome is the pressure to rush panel decisions as the timeframe for implementation of YES grants is limited.

Some outcomes from Result 1 are not able to measured yet as they are reflective of activities associated with the YES grants and the organisational development trainings, which are a

follow-on activity of the DOSAs. However there has been some progress on achieving NSA network enhancement, as it was found that a positive outcome has been found by FONGTIL as they were able to directly identify the network member's necessities in the Districts through conducting DOSA face-to-face.

Result 2.1

So far there has been no Civic Education, National University Debates and Panel Discussions convened as Forum Tau Matan has taken the approach of mapping the universities and using the debates as a process that includes training. However a positive outcome has been that students in the Districts have been able to identify an NSA that can engage with them and provide training, which in this case would be the ability to debate.

Through District Forums, there has been an increase in government understanding of issues faced by NSA. It has also been noted that there has been a change of government officials who support NSA initiatives, which can be supported by SEPFOPE attending live talkshow on International Youth Day and asking to coordinate activities with the DAME's District Youth Forums. There has been some change in government seeing the value of working with other NSA, including youth (both through District Forum and NSA-Government dialogues) which also shows youth feeling confident to effectively communicate with government officials as evidenced during these activities. Through the Youth District Forum, youth are able to demonstrate an increased understanding of issues from other youth from differing sub-Districts. Also through the Regional Civic Leadership Training, youth from different Districts are able to interact with each other and discuss similar and differing issues that they face.

Result 3.1

A major obstacle to the success of achieving outputs has been the capacity of community radio stations as well as of partner organisation TLMDC. SFCG will develop a strategy to overcome this through installation of in-house production facility, continued informed capacity building following DOSA and strategising outputs according to capacities.

DAME Activity-related Challenges

Of the potential risks that may jeopardise the timely realisation of our activities, SFCG recognises that the capacity of our implementing partners/sub-grantees is lacking in some areas. There were human resources shortages and major changes in head leadership of both FONGTIL and FTM. FONGTIL received a new director at the start of the DAME project and FTM had a change of Executive Director not long after the project was launched. In both cases, the directors had to be extensively re-briefed on our work, and, in the case of FTM, it was like starting over again. This shift in leadership resulted in the four-month delay of the original work plan and accentuated already limited resources. Ultimately, it impacted the debate planning process the most. Furthermore, FTM's Program manager was ill for 2 months. There were also some delays in finalising sub-grant contract for FONGTIL, which delayed some activities as they did not have the budget to implement.

In some cases, partner organisations have lacked funding in some cases to support their staff. For example, FONGTIL's District Coordinators were designated to implement and coordinate crucial field-based activities and experienced a lack of funding, initially slowing down the DOSA implementation process. Ultimately, funding for the DCs was soon identified and they were then able to successfully complete the work. FONGTIL is also undergoing an audit and some staff may face having their contracts terminated.

Additional issues that SFCG-TL encountered include delays in recruitment of staff. For example, there was a shortage of applicants for DOP, which resulted in a prolonged recruitment process. Some partner organisations also rely on volunteers – a population of workers that can be both highly dedicated, but also at times inconsistent in completing tasks and reliability.

In terms of partner capacity shortages, there have been several significant challenges with TLMDC, as they were not always committed to agreed work plans; experienced a shortage in staffing; and were not able to meet regularly to address these issues. Overall, the capacity of community radios throughout the districts has remained quite low, as many are currently encountering significant leadership issues. This has directly impacted the production of POSAs (public service announcements) and created delays in talk show production

As discussed, FONGTIL and Belun were successful in completing DOSAs but are still developing training manuals for both local governments by regions and networks. Here, logistical challenges due to complications with the schedules of local government heads can be encountered – i.e. District Administrators and District Development Officers, particularly during decentralisation consultation and pre-decentralisation, are not always readily available.

FONGTIL have worked extensively on the Government's decentralisation program and each District Coordinator attended the dialogues facilitated by the Prime Minister from 2 April to 28 May 2013. Important points that were raised include: need for debates on decentralisation law in order to get approval, need to involve civil society in the relevant District Commission for Installation of Municipalities, need to identify human resources to contribute to peaceful transition to municipality, ensure line of coordination in municipality that serves people's interests, create industry to increase local economy, and involvement of civil society in monitoring of the entire process. There is an opportunity here for the OD trainings to incorporate training needs to reflect the important roles that civil society needs to take and to incorporate these themes into Government dialogues but the timing is crucial in order for the activity to be effective.

In regards to purchases over €10,000 two vehicles were purchased. Please see financial report for more details on the purchases.

In response to these challenges and potential risks, the action plan has been updated: