



## Fast Facts

**Country:** Timor-Leste

**Duration:** January 2002 to July 2007

**Implementing UN Agencies:** UNDP

**Other Implementing Partners:** UNOPS; Government of the United Kingdom; Fundação Halare

**Budget:** \$5,132,499.83

**Key Words:** Agricultural development; environmental security; rural communities; conflict-affected communities

## BACKGROUND

The violence that followed the August 1999 independence referendum in Timor-Leste did considerable damage to the country's agriculture. As much as 30 percent of farm families lost all their assets; agricultural equipment was stolen or destroyed; livestock and agricultural seeds were looted; and

service and support facilities were heavily damaged. In addition to losses inflicted by the violence, traditional farming practices, in concert with deforestation of the nation's upper slopes, were causing extensive soil erosion and flooding resulting in significant pre- and post-harvest losses.

## PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

### GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

To increase food security and to improve the incomes of poor households in Ainaro and Mantuto districts of Timor-Leste, the project, by using participatory methods at the community level, aimed to (i) enhance

agricultural productivity and improve sustainability of subsistence farming; and (ii) reverse upland environmental degradation through a process of soil conservation and reforestation.

### BENEFICIARIES

The project targeted 7,962 households in 21 villages in the Ainaro and Mantuto districts who benefited from the development of new agricultural systems for upland farming, irrigation reconstruction, livestock improvement, reforestation and seed multiplication.

Beneficiaries were also engaged in self-help groups, community mobilization and capacity-building activities resulting in greater social and economic stability.