

Key Achievements in the Area of Democratic Governance

UNDP has projects to support the **main state institutions** as well as activities related to the promotion of **citizen participation** in the political arena. A few of the main **impact areas in 2008** are highlighted below.

1. The inauguration and establishment of the **Gender Resource Center** was an important accomplishment for the National Parliament. This Center, which was established with UNDP support in partnership with UNIFEM and the Women's Parliamentary Caucus, will provide important gender analysis support to Members of Parliament and to Committees to ensure that **gender is mainstreamed in parliamentary business**.
2. The support provided to the Ministry of Social Solidarity in the **preparation of its strategic medium-term plan** was very important in terms of long-term strengthening of the institution. Following this support to MSS, UNDP was also requested to provide similar support to the Ministry of State Administration and Territorial Management and Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
3. The largest of UNDP's programmes, the Justice System Programme, contributed to the **decentralization of the formal justice system** into the districts. UNDP supported the functioning of district courts in Suai, Baucau and Oecusse. To support this exercise the programme also opened three district offices where project support to the judicial institutions is coordinated. Also in the justice sector, 2008 saw the **graduation and probationary swearing in of two judges, four prosecutors and four public defenders** in March 2008. In addition, 14 new students enrolled in the **third course for Magistrates and Public Defenders**.
4. The project assisted in the **revision of the Standing Orders** of the National Parliament. The revised Standing Orders include some **important changes** in the way the Parliament operates, specifically regarding the level of **quorum** needed to begin debates, the merging and functioning of the Permanent Commissions (which will result in only five to seven compared to the current nine committees) and the use of oversight tools.
5. New legislation passed in 2008 (**Career Regime and Performance Evaluation**) were incorporated into the Personnel Management Information System (PMIS) utilized for budget planning purposes in 2009. The Secretariat for the Establishment of the Civil Service Commission (SECSC) continued negotiations with the Ministry of Finance to ensure that payroll processing will be based on PMIS data in 2009 once data has been validated.
6. Also, given that 2009 is an election year which will see suco and possibly the first ever municipal elections in Timor-Leste, the support provided to the completion of the **voter registration exercise** is also worth noting. The final voter's roll was published on 22 December and it contains a total number of 579,606 eligible voters. This figure represents almost 10% more than 2007 voter registration and 30% more than the first voter registration in 2004. From the total 48.9% are women and 51.1 % are men.

