

USAID's YOUTH ENGAGEMENT TO PROMOTE STABILITY PROJECT



Youth Engagement to Promote
Stability in Timor-Leste

A Project implemented by
Search for Common Ground Timor-Leste

Final Report

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1. Executive summary

In early 2012, Search for Common Ground (SFCG) responded to United States Agency for International Development's (USAID) request for a project extension under the Youth Radio for Peacebuilding (YR4PB) grant which concluded on April 30th 2012. SFCG designed a three-year project entitled, Youth Engagement to Promote Stability (YEPS) to continue and expand USG assistance in implementing conflict mitigation and peacebuilding activities targeting at-risk and disaffected youth in all 13 districts of Timor-Leste. This report covers activities implemented in the beginning of the project from May 2012 to June 2015, that has included two months extension of the project.

The goal of the YEPS project is to transform the way in which youth engage with government and community leaders to promote peace and reconciliation and prevent election-related violence. Overall, it seeks to bridge the gap between Timorese youth and social and political structures at the local and national level and contribute to conflict prevention through the innovative use of media.

The three-year project built on the previous YR4PB project and sought to achieve the following objectives:

1. Foster responsible participation of youth in Timor-Leste's elections and post-elections processes.
2. Connect youth with political decision makers at a national level to explore and articulate salient issues and drivers of youth-related conflict and how to engage youth to address them.
3. Provide at-risk and disaffected youth nationwide with reliable information and specific skills to proactively address and respond to conflict related issues.

The project is expected to result in the following:

- (a) Improved engagement and dialogue between Timorese youth, local government and community leaders to explore issues related to youth, conflict, peacebuilding and reconciliation.
- (b) Improved understanding of youth-focused peacebuilding and conflict issues by government and community leaders.
- (c) Improved youth, media, and peacebuilding sector coordination between stakeholders active in youth engagement activities.
- (d) Equip youth in all 13 of Timor-Leste's districts with an improved understanding of conflict related issues and specific skills to enable proactive ways of conflict prevention, mediation and resolution.
- (e) Improved capacity of Timorese media institutions, particularly community radio stations, to produce and broadcast conflict sensitive programming.
- (f) Improved civic understanding among Timorese youth as well as socialization with their roles and responsibilities as rights holders and equal participants in a democratic system.
- (g) Equip youth with an improved understanding of elections, related conflict and specific skills for preventing and managing election related violence/conflict.

A signing ceremony was held at the US Embassy in Dili to celebrate the inauguration of the new phase of the project (the official start date of the project is May 1st 2012. The Former US Ambassador and the former USAID Mission Director were both present, along with SFCG staff and youth volunteers that have made a strong contribution to project activities.

As a starting point for the implementation of the YEPS project, SFCG conducted a comprehensive baseline study aimed to establish benchmark data related to the specific objectives and expected results of the project. Through the baseline survey SFCG was able to measure progress towards the achievement of these objectives at the end of the project, the baseline study was undertaken in 6 districts in Timor-Leste.

In April 2015, USAID approved SFCG request for a two-month no-cost extension of the YEPS project in Timor-Leste. The project was originally scheduled to conclude on April 30, 2015. With the two months no-cost extension SFCG was able to wind down activities and close out the project more effectively.

During the 38-month duration of the project, a number of core activities were implemented:

1. Civic Education and Leadership Training

- A youth mapping exercise conducted in all 13 Districts to identify target youth organizations and individuals to engage in the project. A total of 222 youth were identified.
- 8 regional civic leadership trainings co-funded by European Commission's (EC), through the National Authorizing Office's (NAO) Democracy and Development in Action through Media Empowerment (DAME), which brought together 240 total identified youth leaders to develop their skills in leadership and civic engagement as well as to encourage network building among participants.
- 3 regional and one national civic education seminars in youth-relevant issues for 95 students and faculty across the country at five separate universities. The education seminars were followed by debates and panel discussions for the seminar participants on specific topics related to civic education. Also co-funded by the DAME project.
- 3 national youth forum and 4 regional-youth forum events brought together 395 young participants with the intention of promoting dialogue about the role of youth in Timor-Leste's political and security context as well as fostering further network building among participants to promote action for national level youth engagement and activism.

2. Media Programming

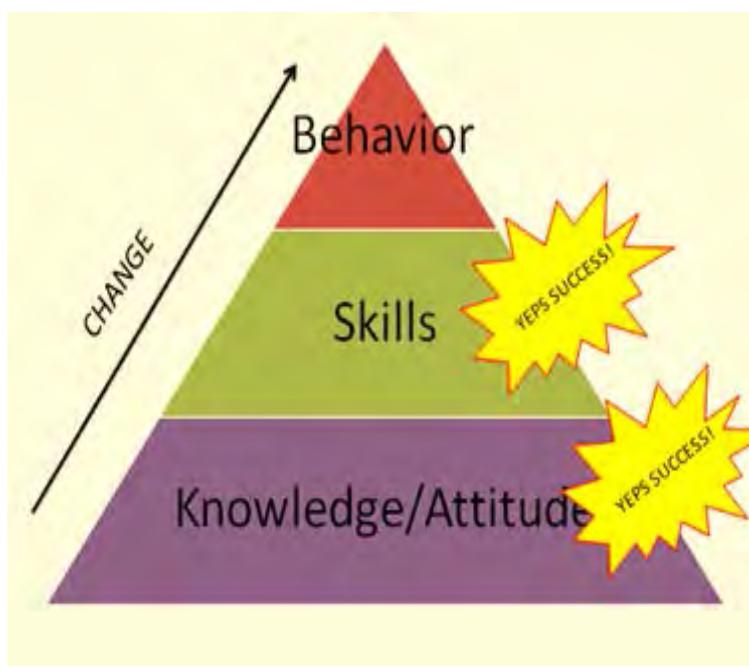
- A training on radio talk shows and a training on radio station management for a network of 32 youth radio reporters in order to strengthen skills and practices around the principles of inclusive, proactive, and conflict sensitive journalism. This was followed by substantial mentoring of community radio staff and managers by SFCG in the field.
- 24 radio magazine shows to produce the show Babadok Rebenta! (BR), which recruits youth reporters to produce stories on youth issues, offering youth as reporting subject, reporting participants, and participants in finding solutions. The show was broadcast on 15 communities and one national radio station and

intended to reach youth audiences throughout the country, together with follow up talk shows produced by the partner radio stations themselves.

- Radio drama production of 25 new episodes for the show Karau Dikur ba Dame (KDD). The radio drama was accompanied by a large publicity campaign and a series of listening groups across all 13 districts.
- Comic books for good governance and peacebuilding written, printed and distributed in a 6 part series covering a wide variety of relevant issues. The books have been distributed to 24,000 youth around the country, particularly those most at risk for election-related violence and were paired with the establishment of community-based reading clubs to promote discussion and reflection on the material.
- A 4-day art class and exhibition were led by Arte Moris Cultural Center in four regions for total of 80 youth.

During the three years of implementation of YEPS Project, key achievement can be summaries as bellow:

- Youth participants have developed new leadership, problem solving, confidence, and public speaking skills through civic leadership training and youth forums.
- Youth reading club members have gained knowledge from comic books on domestic violence, early marriage, women's independence, and avoiding negative political influence. Findings indicate that comic books had a "multiplier effect:" youth shared & discussed comic books with parents, siblings, and friends.
- Over 10 new activities for youth were initiated by civic leadership training and forum participants in their respective communities.
- 75% radio station members learned a variety of new skills that they are able to use in their programs, particularly for radio talk shows.



Proposal focused on behavior level change, but the real successes were at the knowledge, attitude, and skill level. These changes are still very significant!

2. Introduction: Country context and program operating environment

2.1 Youth situation in Timor-Leste

Timorese youth played a significant role in the struggle for independence. They made many sacrifices in order to participate in the struggle as many had to leave their families and studies to ensure Timor-Leste's liberation. Many sacrificed their own lives. After gaining independence, many leaders were worried about the many priorities including responding to the needs of youth but to date there has not been any significant results.

Timorese society has been facing many challenges and problems that emerged after the restoration of independence in 2002 but little attention has been given to the youth from the political leaders. This has led to conflict and violent acts in the communities both in the districts and in Dili. The violent activities mainly emerged due to problems of unemployment, emergence of free markets, inflation, and domination of foreign workers opening businesses. These factors have left youth out of the process, which leaves them feeling like observers, not as active actors in the development process of their own country. According to the 2010 Census¹, 46 per cent of Timor-Leste's populations were under the age of 18 while 30 percent were between the ages of 15 and 29 years old. Every year 15,000 - 20,000 enter the job market but employment is scarce, especially in the districts, which is a pull factor for youth to come to Dili to look for education, employment, and vocational training opportunities. Moreover, many young Timorese are seeking opportunities to study and work abroad through scholarships and overseas employment programs or with support from their families.

Evidently, Timor-Leste's young population is facing many obstacles that can impede the peacebuilding and development process. Some of the challenges² that youth face are full of complexities that put youth at risk, especially those who become or are involved in violent activities, combined with economic, social and political factors such as:

- **Poverty and Unemployment:** there is much poverty caused by the massive numbers of unemployed youth. The reasons of such high numbers of unemployed young individuals can be attributed to low education and skills levels and lack of information about available jobs.
- **Connection and Cohesion in the Community:** the youth do not have strong relationships in the family, community, and school. Community leaders don't see the advantage of youth in their communities; lack of information, and the community itself does not give value to how youth can make a positive contribution to their community.
- **Marginalization and Dissatisfaction with the Political Process:** many politicians use and take advantage of the Timorese youth for their own interests, especially in the process of mobilization for political interests. In addition to lack of commitment of the political leaders to give popular education to the young people, lack of involvement in civic participation, and dissatisfaction with government leading to lack of patriotism and no sense of national identity from youth.
- **Society and Culture:** domestic violence that transpire in the family and community, lack of understanding about gender equality; easy access to gambling, cheap wine and

¹ Census 2010, Ministry of Finance, Government of Timor-Leste

² Some of these challenges came up out of events such as District Youth Forum, and the top 10 topics discussed included clean water, education, electricity, health, land disputes, unemployment, natural disasters, infrastructure, domestic violence, martial arts and sexual violence.

cigarette; modernization and lack of understanding and responsibility in accessing cyberspace/internet.

3. **Weak Justice Institutions:** weakness of the justice system and its mechanism, which leads to loss of trust from young people and the community in general. Some examples: impunity, where many cases are submitted to the police but the investigation process takes a long time; police interventions are against basic human rights; the mentality of the military and police are not friendly (have tendency to use rough attitude like that of the Indonesian military during occupation).

With the above factors, a pull factor has occurred where youth are joining together into groups and also hiding their identities in these groups to protect themselves from the environment in which they live. Many times throughout the youth forums held by SFCG, many of young people voiced their feelings of insecurity in their own communities, feeling prejudiced, and so they have no clear vision for their futures.

It noted that Timor-Leste's economy is growing rapidly, with fast economic growth come greater inequalities in income and wealth. These are especially evident to young people and can cause discontent and a backlash. As a result, the government is particularly mindful of ensuring that all in the society can take part in the new opportunities this new wealth brings, especially those from the poorest households, giving them equal chances to be healthy, educated, feel productive, feel secure and participate as citizens in decisions that affect them. According to the Youth Situation analysis developed by Secretary of State for Youth and Sport (SoSYS) and The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)³ has identified number of issues summarised below:

- In terms of demographics, Timor-Leste is currently facing a youth bulge, with young people representing more than a third of the adult population – and the youth population is increasing. The majority of youth are mainly from rural areas but they also represent the biggest group that are migrating to urban areas, seeking education and employment opportunities.
- The education analysis highlights the important progress achieved in access to education, with more young people going to school than before, and more young people staying on to higher levels of education. Some one-tenth of young people however, have never been enrolled in school and others leave school early so that only one-third finish secondary school, jeopardizing their chances of future opportunities including economic opportunities.
- Employment data show that the majority of active young people have a job. Almost a quarter of young people however are neither at school nor at work, raising concerns about their frustration and their future. 63 per cent of employed young people, aged 15-29, are also engaged in vulnerable employment, even if they have a job, putting them and their family at risk.
- The health situation of young people is increasingly faced by threats due to health risks such as smoking, alcohol, drugs, Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs), Human Immunodeficiency Virus Infection/Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (HIV/AIDS), etc. For some of these risks, knowledge of how to protect oneself is

³ Youth Situation Review Report Secretariat of State for Youth and Sports (SoSYS) Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste
Dili Timor 2014

increasing (HIV) but for others no improvement is seen (smoking). Teenage pregnancy is still putting the health of one quarter of young women at risk.

- Regarding the question of protection from violence, the number of violent incidences is decreasing in the country and Martial Arts related violence is at an all time low. Even if the community perception of youth violence is still high, data shows that prevalence is actually below 1 per cent. The presence of root causes for violence is worrying, with a high unemployment rate of 19 per cent, idleness and alcohol abuse. Young women are still at great risk of suffering from domestic violence.
- Looking at young people's need for participation and their expectations from government, young people are proud of their country, confident and willing to participate. They sometimes have the opportunity to benefit from youth services in their community, increasing their skills and giving them the chance of using their free time positively. They however need more support and more skills on how to confront challenges in life.
- Looking also at cross-sectorial issues, the report highlights the urban-rural divide, the impact of poverty as well as differences between young women and young men.
- Rural areas suffer from lower access to services for young people and offer them fewer opportunities for education and employment. In the urban areas, due to the migration out of the districts, there are a lot of young people. They come for opportunities such as greater access to education, higher levels of wage employment and more youth services for their development, entertainment and leisure. But they are also faced with risks there, being more impacted by domestic violence, drugs and sexually transmitted diseases, indicating that young migrants might engage more in risky behaviors.
- Poverty continues to limit opportunities of young people: data shows that 36 per cent (female) and 32 per cent (male) young people from the lowest wealth quintile are more likely to leave school early, be illiterate, have less access to media as well as be teenage mothers.
- Young women now enjoy the same access to education as boys, at least until 18 years old. They are however much less likely to be employed, are more likely to be married early and are more exposed to violence.
- Overall, young people are seen to go through their major transitions on the way to adulthood between the ages of 20 and 30. It is before 20 however that they encounter the main risks to their well being, showing the importance of focusing on this adolescence phase.

All these findings are discussed in greater detail in the Youth Situation Review Report⁴

2.2 Timor-Leste National Youth Policy

Timor-Leste is one of the youngest nations in the world and is expected to have a very favorable demographic profile in the near future. This is a great opportunity as well as a challenge. The National Youth Policy (NYP) seeks to suggest a framework for appropriate policy interventions by government and non-government organisation and the development partners such as bilateral agencies, to empower the youth to enable them to realize their full potential and also to contribute to the progress of the nation.

⁴ <http://www.unicef.org/timorleste/resources.html>

The development of the NYP was based upon the national norms and legislations in accordance with the Constitution of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste, recognizing and considering the applicable international norms and conventions to serve as motivation and vehicle to progress the development process relevant to youth in Timor-Leste. Timor-Leste's 2007 NYP defines the youth population as those between 16 and 30 years old.

In late 2014, the Government through its SoSYS, have begun the process of revising the first NYP, the process emphasized participatory processes, which involved more than a thousand of youth representatives across 13 districts (Municipalities) through District and National Youth conferences. In May 2015, SoSYS finalized its first draft of the revision of the 2nd NYP and are now expecting to present and discuss within the Council of the Ministers.

The NYP is a framework and general vision guiding all aspects of youth development initiatives within the country. The policy aims to respond to the major challenges and concerns facing young people today in their day-to-day life. It also serves as a policy act to recognize youth's participation in the struggle for independence. The policy recognizes that young people are a heterogeneous group in constant evolution and that the experience of "being young" varies enormously.

The second revision of NYP identifies eleven well-defined objectives and five priority areas and suggests policy interventions in each priority area. The priority areas are:

1. Youth and Education
2. Youth and Employment and Employability
3. Youth and Violence and Crime
4. Youth and Civic Participation
5. Youth and health

The NYP 2015 covers the entire country catering the needs of all youth in the age group of 15-24 years, which constitutes 50 per cent of the population according to Census 2010. It will replace NYP-2007, to take care of developments since 2007 and future policy imperatives. The NYP-2015 also proposes broad policy interventions for the youth that are consistent with the 2012-2030 Country strategic plan and its Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and does not propose any specific program/ scheme that will have financial implications. All concerned Ministries/ Departments would be requested to bring focus on youth issues within the framework of their plans/ programs/ schemes etc.

The policy notes that development initiatives should consider all aspects of youth lives and respond to their physical, psychological, social, economic and spiritual needs within a socio-political environment. This will allow the nation to ensure that young people are equipped with the necessary knowledge, skills and experiences.

3. YEPS Program areas and progress 2012 – 2015

3.1 Component area 1. Civic educational and leadership training

Outputs

Indicator 1: **144** youth have completed USG-assisted civic leadership training

Indicator 2: **10** civic leadership training sessions conducted (including ToT and pilot in Liquica)

Indicator 3: **3** regional and **1** national university debates, civic education seminars and panel discussions conducted

Indicator 4: **95** participants in regional and **53** participants in national university debates, civic education seminars and panel discussions.

Indicator 5: **163** regional and **232** national youth forum participants strengthening understanding among conflict-affected groups; participants came from political parties, martial arts groups, and youth organizations such as youth councils and youth parliament, religious groups, and universities.

Indicator 6: **4** regional and **3** national youth forums conducted

Indicator 19: **11** stakeholder meetings held

Indicator 20: **577** people attending facilitated events geared toward strengthening understanding among conflict-affected groups that were supported with USG assistance

Indicator 25: Youth mapping conducted in all **13** districts

3.1.1 Youth Mapping

During a period of 8 months, from June to December 2012 SFCG completed an extensive youth mapping exercise. The primary purpose of the mapping was to identify civically engaged and dynamic youth from rural, suburban, and urban areas of all 13 districts of Timor-Leste to take part in SFCG-TL's civic education and leadership training and media programming activities. These targeted youth will provide a multiplier effect to program impacts through their continued civic engagement and influence with other youth. Through the mapping process and follow-up activities, connections between youth and local leaders will be strengthened, facilitating the constructive engagement of youth in Timor-Leste's political and electoral processes. An additional aim of the mapping exercise was to increase SFCG-TL's knowledge and understanding of formal and informal youth structures, and to strengthen ties with community leaders and stakeholders throughout the country. The youth mapping exercise was completed in all 13 districts on December 6-19 2012.

The youth mapping team, composed of SFCG and National Youth Council of Timor-Leste (CNJTL) staff, was able to interview 155 males and 67 females between the ages of 15 and 29 from different background of youth groups through formal and informal discussion targeting youth (group and individual), local authorities, traditional and spiritual leaders, civil society groups, and stakeholders to youth. Youth were very welcoming and open minded in talking to the mapper team. They stated that it is rare for other people from any government institutions or NGOs to come on the ground to talk with them about what they are doing and to get their own opinion on youth issues. In the conversations, the team also noted voices from youth that training facilitations and financial support to youth groups on the ground are very important in helping them to play their roles and participate more in community development.

The process of youth identification enabled the team to identify key young people who have the most influence over their peers and who come from a range of groups and organizations, including formal and informal youth-led associations such as sport clubs, churches, martial groups, music clubs, and art clubs. The team was able to reach the "trouble makers"- such as the martial arts groups' members - to have a honest and deep discussion among various issues. Through the mapping exercise 13 youth from the 13 districts were identified to participate in the ToT Civic Leadership Training (CLT) that was held on February 1st to 6th 2012 in Dare. The purpose of involving them was to increase youth leadership skills and to build their skills to become key trainers and main focal points to roll out CLTs in their respective districts. While it is also a process of building networks among youth in Timor-Leste to learn from each other, their participation has contributed to give insight to SFCG in

developing the CLT curriculum based on their perspectives and the context of youth in Timor-Leste.

3.1.2 Regional Youth Forum

In June 2012, SFCG held four regional youth forums in Ermera, Ainaro, Baucau and Oecusse districts. Each forum was participated by over 40 young people (aged 17-29) from a diverse array of communities and backgrounds to discuss issues relevant to them in the lead-up to the July 7th parliamentary elections. The participants, including representatives from political parties, martial arts groups, youth organizations and religious groups were asked to reflect on the struggle of young people before, during and after independence, as well as engage in frank dialogue with national electoral bodies, civil society organizations and local leaders. Adopting open space facilitation methods, they came together to assess their role in fostering stability and created action plans which identified constructive solutions to shared challenges.

Each regional forum ended with a session dedicated to the action plan where SFCG aimed to really engage youth in finding responsible means of ensuring peaceful elections. The action plan were prepared and used by the youth during pre and post election processes. For example, sub-groups were created to discuss issues such as disseminating the right information to the community regarding the election process, ways that people can use their right to vote, involvement in voter civic education, a suku/aldeia forum for election, and other support in dissemination of the result of the vote to avoid rumors. In the closing session each district chose three representatives to attend the national forum and the session ended with opportunities for all participants to give recommendations and suggestions to SFCG for future forums. Feedback from the forum was overwhelmingly positive, with participants clearly enjoying the opportunity to meet new friends and explore issues affecting them in a safe, open and constructive environment.

According to the final evaluation of the YEPS project, 2012 regional youth forums focused on the upcoming elections gave election officials and district administrators the opportunity to discuss with young people how to prevent violence while allowing greater voice for youth. In the end line survey, 67% of youth stated that they are aware of the democratisation process happening today in Timor-Leste compared with baseline survey where 64% stated the same. For example having the right to vote, speaking freely, working with political parties and groups to discuss about election or community planning, and discussing with community and government officials their thoughts freely. However in the follow up action plan post regional youth forum, only 21% of youth showed their interest in conducting follow up activities. There were two issues contributed to this; first, the regional youth forum was implemented at the time where the YEPS project kicked off thus there was not adequate time for the team to do proper preparation included works alongside with the youth in conducting their follow up action plan. Secondly there wasn't enough resources available in order to support the initiatives of the youth participant, Some youth groups informed SFCG that they will submit their proposal to support their follow up action but unfortunately SFCG cannot accommodate their request due to the lack of resources available.

3.1.3 National Youth Forum

YEPS project were able to organize two National Youth Forum in 2012 and 2013 and one additional National Youth Forum in 2015. The three forums brought together 235 youth (between the ages of 17-29) from all 13 districts and from a diverse array of backgrounds and communities to discuss issues relevant to them as well as find alternative solutions to the challenges that affect both youth and the larger community. More specifically however, the forum aimed to:

- a) Bring up youth issues from open space result of the 13 district forums to the national forum level for youth to have more deep discussion and share what they have in common, finding solution together and make recommendations as an action point to help overcome the issues,
- b) Connect youth with leaders; to create a space for youth and leader to have a dialogue in order for youth to have a chance to express their perspectives on their concerns so leaders can listen to youth voices and also as an opportunity for youth and leaders to have a discussion on how they can work together on the issue, and
- c) Build strong network among youth and to strengthen relationship with national youth council (CNJTL) and SFCG.

The forums were instrumental in connecting youth from all 13 districts with notable and critical political leaders such as former (at the time current PM) Prime Minister, Xanana Gusmão, former Prime Minister Mari Alkatiri, and Secretary of State for Youth and Sport. At the 2013 National Youth Forum, President of CNJTL, Leovigildo Hornai, commented that the forum was groundbreaking for it was the first time they had witnessed a current Prime Minister attend a youth event. Many of the youth were happy to hear the Prime Minister and ex-Prime Minister speak. Plenty of questions were asked during the question and answer session and youth were confident in doing so. The session on rural women in development was very lively and youth showed a lot of interest in communications, as access to information is a general issue of concern.



Exc. Kayrala Xanana Gusmao (Former Prime Minister of Republic Democratic of Timor Lest "RDTL", Addressing Youth Participant at the National Youth Forum and University Debate / Panel Discussion.

SFCG also facilitated the way people should engage, listen and respect one another for the common good and common solution. National youth forum activities were highlighted below:

- National Youth Forum 2012

On November 9-12th, the SFCG Timor-Leste in partnership with CNJTL, hosted the first National Youth Forum under YEPS project in Dili. The Forum brought together 92 youth (between the ages of 17-29) from all 13 districts and from a diverse array of backgrounds and communities to discuss issues relevant to them in the aftermath of the elections and the lead up to the withdrawals of the UN mission. The participants, including representatives from political parties, martial arts groups, youth organizations and religious groups were asked to reflect on the struggles of young people in Timor-Leste, as well as engage in open dialogue with politicians and leaders of the V Constitutional Government of Timor-Leste about the successes and challenges of the recent elections.

Representatives from the United Mission in Timor-Leste, National Police of Timor-Leste (PNTL), the former Secretary of State for Youth and Sport, USAID and various NGOs were present and gave remarks on the current and future roles of youth in security. The structure of the Forum revolved around two panel discussions and two Open Space Forum sessions. The theme for these sessions was: What are the challenges that need to be overcome for a better future of Timor-Leste? Participants were active and energetic in raising issues. The second day covered infrastructure in rural areas, reconciliation, gender, tourism, sanitation, land dispute, the impact of Timor-Leste to join the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), Election 2017, the challenges of UN Mission withdrawal, combatting drugs, border problems, community leadership, domestic violence, culture, literacy, and the role and responsibility of civil society. The participants gave various recommendations, such as the socialization of women's rights in rural areas, and the building of job training centers in sub-districts, which were presented in a final report to the government. On the 12th of November, participants closed the National Forum by commemorating the massacre of Santa Cruz and joining the Dili procession to the Santa Cruz cemetery.

- National Youth Forum 2013

The second National Youth Forum was held over three days in December 2013 as part of Youth Big Week. The first day included a panel discussion, a joint event co-organized with Forum Tau Matan (FTM) as part of National University Debate's Panel Discussion. Participation at the dialogue session/panel discussion included 24 student debaters from Dili, Viqueque, Baucau and Oecusse; and 63 youth from the national youth forum (including District and sub-District National Youth Council coordinators). Topics included the Special Zone for Social Market Economy (ZEESM) Master Plan for Oecusse enclave; Decentralization Process: Pre-Condition & Steps to Establish the Municipality in Timor-Leste; Law of rights to Land & Property; Rural Women's Participation in development Process and Journalism Code of Ethics & Main Roles of Media in Society. The Prime Minister opened the panel discussion and spoke at length about the importance of youth to engage to promote stability and development.

For the discussion part of the forum, the Youth and Community Peace building team developed a new methodology designed to build on the common ground approach where

youth can share their values and concerns in a more participatory process including small group discussion to identify the top 5 priority issues in their district, open discussions where each district group shared their results with other participants for comments, feedback, and input as well as offer solutions and recommendations; and workshop presentation which then went into the drafting of “Timor-Leste Youth Report 2013” and youth declaration. The report covering issues discussed in district youth forum and national youth forum were finalized and presented into one overall report to the public on International Youth Day in 12th of August 2014. Afterwards the youth presented a cultural showcase of their identity from each district including music, dancing, theater and poetry. Results from the forum and youth report was shared with Government and National Parliament and also tied in with the launch of the Guiding Principles on Young People in Peacebuilding.

On the final day, a small team of participants including two representatives from each district developed a Youth Declaration that encompassed common priority issues were effected / facing by youth in all districts; the common priority issues such as un employment that also related to lack of opportunity for young people to be involves in agriculture sectors, the quality of education and involvement of youth in violence and conflict. The declaration was later televised nationally on the news and copies were provided to community radio station managers for broadcast. The Minister of Agriculture spoke on the second day of the forum about the Government and partners efforts to increase agriculture production & strategic plan for sustainability in Timor-Leste.

- National Youth Forum 2015

The President of Timor-Leste’s Chief of Staff (Chefe Casa Civil), Mr. Fidelis Manuel Leite Magalhães, and the Ambassador of the United States of America to Timor-Leste, Karen C. Stanton, officially opened the Third annual National Youth Forum on January 28th at the Palacio do Nobre, Lahane. The forum was held for three days from 28-30 January 2015 and was attended by 63 representatives of youth (between the age of 17-29) from all 12 municipalities and autonomous region of Oecusse, representing a diverse array of backgrounds such as political parties, universities, youth organizations, and religious groups. The first dialogue discussion at the forum was conducted on the first day of the forum and was given by the Chief of Military Affairs at the President’s Office, Dr. Frei Guterres. Mr. Guterres spoke to the youth about the Patriotic Civic Service program. On the second day of the forum, 29th of January, youth participated in an interactive panel discussion about the impact of free access to internet on youth followed by an opportunity for the youth to come together and reflect on what they had learnt during the panel discussion. The panel discussion attended by the Secretary of State for Social Communications (SECOM), Mr. Nelio Isaac Sarmiento, the Director of Higher Education, representing the Ministry of Education, Mr. Mateus dos Reis, the Director of Institutional Relations at Timor Telecom, Mr. Manuel Carceres da Costa, and the lead Psychiatrist at the National Hospital, Dr. Idalina Borges.

Each speaker approached the topic from a different angle providing both his or her expertise and analysis on the issue. Mr. Nelio Isaac Sarmiento spoke on the government’s policy in regard to regularizing access to social media and the Internet in general. In a similar vein, Mr. Dos Reis spoke on the positive and negative effects of social media on the youth. The Director of Institutional relations at Timor Telecom, Mr. Manuel da Costa built on the previous speakers by speaking on to restrict access to Internet for the youth and what would be the best way to do so. Psychiatrist Dr. Idalina Borges addressed the psychological effects of social media on the youth and how it can lead to some psychological disorders.

On the last day and as part of closing the National Youth Forum, SFCG invited international NGOs, national NGOs, government agencies, and donors to take part in the “Youth Engagement Expo” that was held in Centro Convenções Dili (Dili Convention Center) on January 30th, 2015. Among international NGOs attending were Child Fund and Plan International; local NGOs included Ba Futuru, CNJTL, Jojo FM Radio, Arte Moris, and FTM; government agencies were represented by the National Department for Community Conflict Prevention; in addition to the Embassy of the United States of America. The objective of the expo was to expose youth and direct them to various beneficial programs offered by NGOs and government entities specifically targeting the development and advancement of youth in Timor-Leste. Youth showed their enthusiasm while learning from each representative organization and interacting with them to understand more about the programs they offer and how can youth participate in such programs. This expo was also meant to show youth that they are crucial assets to the development of the nation and that the government, as well as, NGOs focus their efforts towards investing in the youth. On the other hand, the organizations attending the event found it a great opportunity to promote their programs and reach motivated young individuals to take part in their projects.

3.1.4 Civic Leadership Training

Civic Leadership Training (CLT) was conceived as a way to provide at-risk and disaffected youth nationwide with reliable information and specific skills to proactively address and respond to conflict related issues. The 8 regional civic leadership trainings was carried out in four regions during 2012 to 2015, attended by 240 youth from all 13 districts aimed to developed leadership capacities and civic engagement skills.

The CLT’s program pursued the following objectives:

- 1) Equip youth in all 13 of Timor-Leste’s districts with an improved understanding of conflict related issues and specific skills to enable proactive ways of conflict prevention, mediation and resolution
- 2) Improve capacity of Timorese media institutions, particularly community radio stations, to produce and broadcast conflict sensitive programming
- 3) Improve understanding of Timor-Leste’s population at large of youth-related issues and conflict prevention

As a starting point for implementation of the CLTs, from February 2 – 5, 2013, SFCG-TL with USAID’s YEPS convened a CLT for the Training of Trainers (TOT). The TOT engaged 24 young men and women from all over the country who had previously been identified as leaders in their own communities through Youth Mapping exercise. 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 prepared to play key roles in community peacebuilding, particularly as many of them come from conflict-affected villages. The training sessions ran from 8am – 5:30pm, with 15-minute breaks in the mornings and afternoons and a 1-hr lunch break, resulting in approximately 8 hours of training per day, a total of 24 hours of workshop time. Additional sessions were held each evening, ranging from discussions, watching videos, and closing with a certificate ceremony. The CLTs activities are highlighted as below:

CLTs 2013

The CLTs conducted in 2013 were cost-shared with the EC DAME project and were held to coincide with the project's district youth forums in the districts of Oecusse, Baucau, Ainaro and Ermera. The first two regional Leadership trainings took place in Oecusse and Baucau on April 17 to 19. These trainings were planned and developed based on Leadership ToT in February 2013. Where possible trainers that attended the ToT training were also brought in to co-facilitate together with SFCG staff and CNJTL volunteers. In Oecusse, training was co-facilitated by Venancio Colo, from CNJTL District Oecusse, SFCG and CNJTL. Participants in the training were all active and discovered new experiences through the experiential learning method. Youth expressed that they wanted to attend more trainings like this. Participants from these trainings are studying and working as volunteers in local NGOs and in district youth councils. In Baucau, the training was held at the regional level, which included the Districts of Baucau (7 participants), Viqueque (4 participants), Lautem (6 participants) and Manatuto (6 participants). As Baucau was the host District, there were more participants from Baucau but due to a martial arts conflict that occurred on the first day of training, some could not attend the training, reducing the number of participants to four. Although they came to the venue prior to the training to check the venue, after going home to collect their belongings they were prevented from coming back to the venue because of the conflict. The training was facilitated by SFCG, CNJTL with co-facilitator from the Distr , as well as Romario and Zaulino from Viqueque, Arfin from Manatuto, and Humbelina from Lautem. The facilitators were able to provide training and assisted with choosing participants, planning trainings, etc.

All participants were active in the training. During this training the facilitators used a debriefing process on the first day of arrival where they presented a schedule and then facilitators chose which sessions they were comfortable with leading, then SFCG coached and refreshed facilitators on the material they were to present and facilitate. Numerous participants said that they have taken part in a lot of leadership training sessions in many different places. Still, they lauded this training from YEPS as very different yet very useful because it uses new methods in order to help participants discover themselves through activities. On the other end of the spectrum, Jumario do Rego, a participant from Lautem, said that this was the first leadership training he had attended in his life and that he was very happy to be able to learn so much together with friends who already had some experience.

The second slot of trainings took place in Ermera and Ainaro on June 19-21. This time around SFCG and CNJTL facilitators were also 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 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 Documentation, Monitoring and Evaluation (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.

In Ermera the training included participants from Dili (8 people), Bobonaro (9 people), Liquica (2 people, lower due to a previous pilot training program in Liquica), and Ermera (8 people). SFCG and CNJTL facilitated the training, as the local facilitator from Ermera was

busy due to work commitments. No problems arose during training and participation was active. Included amongst the participants were several youth from CNJTL and from the youth parliament. Though this intimidated some of the other participants at first, by the third day all were participating equally. In Ainaro sessions were co-facilitated by Domingos Rodrigues from the Same Youth Council, and by SFCG and CNJTL. Other trainers who had attended prior training were all busy. Participants came from the Districts of Ainaro (7 people), Covalima (6 people), Manufahi (6 people), and Aileu (6 people). Participants from Ainaro said that it was the first time they had attended leadership training in Ainaro (quoting Hermenegilda do Rosario, NGO Justisa e Paz).

CLTs 2014

SFCG, in collaboration with CNJTL, began its second round of CLT for this year, solely funded by the USAID YEPS project. The first training was conducted in region of Manatuto on the 1 to 3rd of April 2014. The training was participated by youth leaders from the municipalities of Manatuto, Baucau, Lautem and Viqueque, followed by the region of Covalima on the 29 to 30 of September 2014, attended by participants from municipalities of Covalima, Ainaro, Manufahi and Bobonaro. Total participants from each regional CLT were 25.

During the three-day trainings, the participating youth were encouraged to explore various aspects of leadership and team building. The purpose of the training was to help youth to discover their untapped potential for leadership and to use their skills to play a more meaningful role in their communities. The training worked to ensure that participants will transfer the understanding, knowledge, and skills gained in the workshop into real-life contexts outside the training. In order to accomplish this goal, SFCG used an experiential learning approach and methodologies, allowing participants to self-experience, reflect, and connect what they have learned to concrete situations. This approach helps to retain the new knowledge and skills learned during the training, and to value the importance of working together to achieve goals. The activities that the participants underwent during the CLT helped to expand participants' comfort zone and necessitate reliance on team members to successfully navigate experiential team challenges. Topics covered included but were not limited to leadership, teamwork, effective communication, time management, conflict transformation, and risk assessment.

CLTs 2015

In the final year of the USAID YEPS project, the second cycle of regional CLTs in the last two municipalities completed in Oecusse and Liquica, held on 25-27 February 2015 and 24-26 March 2015 respectively. 25 participants attended both trainings with a majority of females (Oecusse: Male 10 and Female 15, and Liquica: Male 10 and Female 15), with age range from 15 to 25 years old. The method used in this training is experiential learning methodology which covered topics around key leadership skills on cooperative problem solving, effective communication, decision making method, leadership vision, team-building, and understanding how to deal with conflict constructively. Additionally, SFCG-TL selected from all CLTs participants in the past two years 26 youth (21 males and 7 females) for a coaching session in order for the youth to have the ability and skills to collaborate with SFCG in organizing and facilitating comic book reading club discussions and fun day activities that are considered as peace building initiatives in their communities (see section 3.2.4).

SFCG staff received substantial feedback from participants that CLTs and its experiential learning method helped youth to learn effectively and that they reflected the reality of their

daily lives. It also builds ownership in allowing the youth to decide for themselves what they want to change in their own lives. This was strongly corroborated by the youth from the Focus Group Discussions (FGDs), who talked about how the methodology giving them a voice and an opportunity to learn.

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’).

Civic Leadership Training: Case Studies

Sancho Belito Fernandes Pereira, 23 years old, participated in the Civic Leadership Training organised by SFCG-TL in Ermera, in June 2013. Sancho is the Coordinator of Sub-District Youth Center in Don Aleixo, Dili. Before the training, Sancho approached decision making and consensus building very differently. When there were disagreements or tension, he was often dictatorial; decisions were made but many youth were unhappy with his leadership style. During the Civic Leadership Training, Sancho learned the basics of leadership: listening, building consensus, and how to problem solve when there are differences in opinion.

Sancho saw how his authoritarian leadership style was ineffective and dismissive. “When I go back to Dili, I’m going to involve all members of the organisation in the decision-making process and I am now willing to take a more democratic approach when disagreements come about” said Sancho.

Sancho realized that Leadership was not just about leading people, but about listening to people and involving them in the decision-making process.

“I promise that after this training I will become a good leader in my work place. I will become a good listener and I will involve everyone in the decision-making process and it will not come from me anymore but it will happen based on common understanding”
Sancho Belito Fernandes Pereira, 23, Dili



Sancho kept his promise after the Civic Leadership Training. Sancho is shown giving a class on civic responsibilities to secondary school students in Dili.

3.1.5 Civic Education Seminars, National University Debates, and Panel Discussions

For this activity, which is cost shared with EC DAME program; Forum Tau Matan (FTM) took a process-orientated approach (see flow chart Debate Program Cycle and Training Activities). Results include roll out of training, inter-university debates and panel discussions for three regions and a national level debate and panel discussion, held in conjunction with the national youth forum.

SFCG and its partner FTM facilitated three regional Civic Education Seminars, National University debates and panel discussions, for youth enrolled in universities in the regions of Oecusse, Baucau and Dili. The events were organized with the help of campus-based student organisations, on subjects that are timely and important for youth civic education, such as: democratic institutions; elections; justice; and political and youth affairs and other current issues in Timor-Leste that were identified. The debate process used guidelines developed by FTM, with support from SFCG, following a panel discussion, which brought together 95 university students from the districts of Baucau, Viqueque, Oecusse and Dili, and involving relevant government stakeholders/institutions, members of parliament, and others to discuss pressing issues that deserve attention from the top levels of government.

University Debates Trainings in Oecusse, Baucau, and Dili

Three day workshop/training on Debating skills		
Place, Dates	Participants	Institutions
Oecusse: 22-24 July	32 participants, 12 female, 19 males,	Institute Superior Cristal (ISC) and Dili Institute of Technology (DIT)
Baucau: 14-16 August	34 participants, 11 females, 23 males	University of Dili (UNDIL) Viqueque, University of Oriental Timor Loro Sa'e (UNITAL) Baucau, ISC Baucau and UNDIL Baucau. (Participants from ISC Lospalos couldn't take part due to field research activities)
Dili: 27-29 Aug	29 participants, 20 males, 9 females	UNDIL, National University of Timor-Leste (UNTL), UNITAL, DIT, Institute of Business (IOB) . (ISC had a graduation on that week And UNPAZ didn't want to take part due to other kampu / UNI priority)

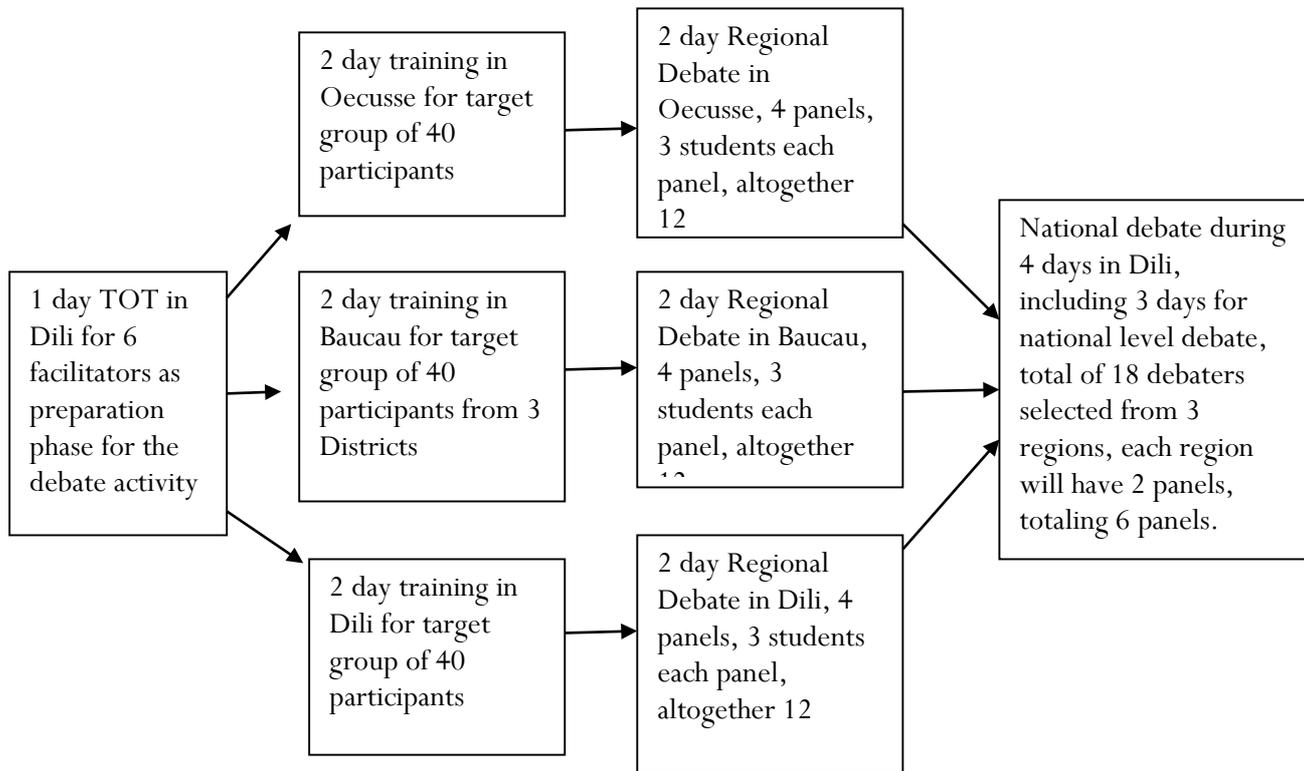
On 26th and 27th of September, one debate and panel discussion was realised in Oecusse region. The activity was attended by 29 youth participants of whom only 7 were females, even though FTM specified in their criteria that there needed to be gender balance in the teams, FTM recognized the need to have better coordination with universities during all phases of the debate cycle. It was also found that due to lack of available resource materials, debaters were unprepared, sometimes speaking well under the time limit. To combat this FTM provided packages of information on chosen topics before the teams go into the debate phase. The keynote for the panel discussion was the District Administrator of Oecusse, who spoke about the decentralization process. Information was presented very well and it was clear and easy to understand by the participants and the debaters.

The discussion was also quite participatory with youth having the opportunity to ask questions and the speaker was able to discuss with them and answer their questions or clarify. However, according to FTM, they had planned to have two speakers at the panel discussion, but at the time there was only one speaker.



University students who participated in the national debate pose for a photo with the Secretary Of State for Youth and Sport (former), USAID Representative, FTM Executive Director and SFCG staff.

Debate Program Cycle and Training Activities



The Baucau regional debate and panel discussion was held on 17-18 October 2013 in Uma Dame in Baucau. Debate topics included minimum wages, land disputes, development of cooperative sector and free tertiary education. The students debated that minimum wage established in the Labour Code is too low especially for those who work in private sector. Also students debated that land disputes are continuing to cause conflicts in the community. According to the students, the land and property directorate needs to establish an adequate system to resolve land disputes.

During the panel discussion on the following day, 18 October 2013, invited speakers from the Directorate of Land and Property and the Inspector-General from State Secretariat for Employment Policy and Vocational Training (SEPFOPE) attended and spoke to the students about government programs and policies in relation to land rights and labour rights. A total of 52 students (42 males, 10 females) attended the panel discussion together with local leaders.

The Dili regional debate and panel discussion was held on 24-25 October 2013 in East Timor Development Agency (ETDA), Fatuhada. There were five debates held with student teams from UNTL, UNDIL, IOB and DIT. Students from UNITAL decided not to participate as they were still in the process of evaluation and accreditation. Debate topics included: increase women's participation in national development; reconciliation and justice; youth creativity; increase farming of local produce; controlling migrant workers in Timor-Leste. A total of 51 students (36 males and 15 females) attended the debates including students, journalists, government representatives and partners.

After the debate, on the following day the panel discussion featured speakers from Directorate of Environmental Education, State Secretariat for the Environment who spoke about the Government's policy on environmental protection. The students questioned the speaker about the lack of an integrated Inter-Ministerial plan on environmental protection. In response, the Government representative spoke about the current laws that prohibit people from cutting down trees and causing damage to protected areas.

Additionally, in December of 2014, the National University Debate took place in Dili and was opened with a speech from the Secretary of State for Youth and Sport, Miguel Manutelu. In his speech, he challenged the university students to become intellectual leaders, to be better than the present leaders and not to wait for the leaders to speak but to take part in the debate and the development process

The total attendance at the debate was 53 participants. To prepare the students, FTM created and distributed information packages on debate topics, including CDs from SFCG's radio program Her Story, in addition to providing a small stipend for Internet cafes with support from SFCG. FTM also held a training session on December 13,

2013 in order to teach participants about using the Internet for research and to list the debate topics. This was a follow up action taken by FTM after observing that students in the districts (Oecusse, Baucau and Viqueque) had limited access to resources on the debate topics.

Debate topics included: impact of reconciliation on justice for past crimes in Timor-Leste, controlling migrant workers, lack of creativity increase youth unemployment, minimum salary, Timor's readiness for ASEAN, promoting women's participation in national development, impact of prostitution and pornography on female youth, land reforms are solution to land disputes. Debate teams came from UNTL, DIT, IOB, UNITAL & ISC Baucau (combined team), DIT-Oecusse, UNDIL & UNTL Dili (combined team), ISC-Oecusse, UNDIL Viqueque & Baucau (combined team) and had total of 24 student debaters.

FTM had proposed to hold another two regional debates but despite being cost-shared with EU DAME project, there were not enough budgets to do this. Reasons for this include FTM having to conduct a nation-wide mapping of universities, which was not originally budgeted for. FTM also took a process-oriented approach, which required more planning and logistics such as providing training and selection of debaters. There were also 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 was resolved.

As partners, SFCG has found risk with working with FTM in that they 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 was able to avoid further delays by coordinating closely with FTM as well as providing support in the monitoring and evaluation of their activities.

3.1.6 other activities; Children and Youth events – Celebration of the success

- Youth Art event 2013

In celebration of Timor's ongoing peace and national unity and coinciding with Timor-Leste's Anniversary of the Restoration of Independence, SFCG conducted a youth-centered art project at the Baucau Music and Art Festival on Saturday, May 25th 2013. The festival showcased Timorese music, art and culture for a local, district, national and international audience, attracting many youth. Led by Caitlin Adams, a graduate student from the U.S. in expressive arts therapy, SFCG led a painting project where they asked youth to reflect on peace in Timor-Leste. Approximately 50 youth, primarily from Baucau, came to the SFCG art table and produced colorful, vibrant images depicting a peaceful country. Ultimately, the SFCG art activity and festival as a whole was an inclusive experience that showcased the exceptional musical and artistic talents of the Timorese people.

- International Youth Day 2013

SFCG and CNJTL also celebrated International Youth Day 2013, and hosted a live talkshow at Largo de Lecidere with guest speakers Secretary of State for Employment and Training, the CNJTL President, and ex-youth parliament alumni, on the theme of "Youth Migration: Moving Development forward". Other activities included cleanup day, blood donation drive, the handing out of flowers and music events.

To mark International Day of Peace 2013, SFCG and CNJTL celebrated with a week-long online #WagePeace campaign, posting photos from activities such as district youth forums and media talkshows. Internationally, SFCG also posted a YouTube video featuring photos from SFCG offices worldwide.

- Launch of Guiding Principle on Young People Participation in Peace Building 2014.

The Guiding Principles on Young People's Participation in Peacebuilding were officially launched on April 24th 2014, in New York, alongside the UN General Assembly Thematic Debate on Ensuring Stable and Peaceful Societies, In Timor-Leste, the launch was held on May 30th 2014, focusing on present context and results of discussion on the guiding principles and testimonies from youth on their involvement in youth related activities inline with the guiding principles.

The launch, held by SFCG, USAID, UN Residence, and CNJTL, had more than 100 youth participants, and started at 09:00am on 30th May in Delta Nova hall, Comoro. After the opening speeches from Ms. Lisa Whitley, representative of Mr. John Seong, USAID Mission Director in Timor-Leste; and Mr. Sérgio Muchanga, representative

of Mr. Knut Østby, UN Resident Coordinator in Timor-Leste, and Secretary of State for the Promotion of Equality, Mrs. Idelta Rodrigues, representative of Vice Prime Minister of Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste, Mr. Fernando “Lasama” de Araujo, the guiding principles were officially launched.

The young people attending showed great enthusiasm to be part of the launch program. Previous to the launch, SFCG and CNJTL teams facilitated a preparation forum for more than 80 young people from thirteen districts, to explain more clearly about the nine (9) guiding principles and look at how to apply these principles to the context of Timor-Leste; to brief the youth on what will happen at the launch on May 30th so that tasks can be delegated to the young people in order to lead the launch process. The nine principles are:

1. Promote young people’s participation as an essential condition for successful peacebuilding
2. Value and build upon young people’s diversity and experiences
3. Be sensitive to gender dynamics
4. Enable young people’s ownership, leadership and accountability in peacebuilding
5. Do no harm
6. Involve young people in all stage of peacebuilding and post-conflict programming
7. Enhance the knowledge, attitudes, skills, and competencies of young people for peacebuilding.
8. Invest in intergenerational partnerships in young people’s communities
9. Introduce and support policies that address the full needs of young people

An important part of this launch was the opportunity for youth to give their testimonies to the audience, share their experiences and strengthen young people’s commitment to get more involved in the peacebuilding process. Another part of the launch was the panel discussion with representatives from United Nations Education Science and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), SoSYS, Secretary of State for Promotion of Equality, PNTL and Secretary of State for Security. Through the panel discussion, young people raised their concerns and gave recommendations to the representatives of the government, United Nations and donors to fortify their commitment to address the needs of young people.

- International Youth Day 2014

On August 12th 2014, SFCG-TL held an event celebrating United Nations’ International Youth Day in partnership with CNJTL. This year the theme discussed mental health among the youth under the slogan “Mental Health Matters”. The event was held at the Eskola Sekundáriu 4 de Setembru (UNAMET), which has a large population of students.

Leovigildo Hornai, the former president of CNJTL, gave opening remark at the event; He spoke of the importance of highlighting mental health among the youth, who make up about 50 percent of the Timorese society. Mr. Hornai also condemned the stigmatization of mental health issues in the society, and emphasized that non-government organizations, together with the government should invest in the youth’s physical and mental health, adding that it is not the responsibility of one organization, but rather everyone’s responsibility. Director of Office of General Development

at USAID, Lisa Whitley, added that USAID-TL gives high priority to youth development and considers events such as this hosted by SFCG-TL a great opportunity to discuss important issues in regard to the youth. USAID representative noted the difficult circumstances the younger generations in Timor-Leste experienced in recent years when violence escalated between the eastern and western parts of the country, which resulted in mental health issues. USAID representative quoted statistics from the Ministry of Health stating that 34% of Timorese youth struggle with depression, alcohol abuse and aggressive behavior. Mental Health Expert Alberto Piedade discussed strategic ways to dealing with mental health. He also encouraged the young attendees to seek help when facing mental health problems, as well as to take care of themselves by relaxing, staying active, and spending time with themselves. And lastly, the representative from Ministry of Education, Albano Salem, made a commitment to strengthening the policies and responsibilities of the Ministry of Education towards mental health, while also stressing the importance of working together and collaborating in order to prevent mental health problems among the youth. The event was televised by RTTL (national television) and it had a positive reception by the participants, who made requests to repeat the program four weeks in a row. Based on the post test conducted by DM&E team, Out of the 17 participants who voluntarily gave their views, 53% said that the event provided a whole understanding of mental health, 29% said they were very happy to attend the event, 12% said it was a very interesting event that it discussed such a neglected issue, and 6% said that the event was fantastic event, unique, and different to other events. 88% of the 17 participants reported that the panel discussion was their favored because they were able to have interactive discussions related to mental health and it was a very effective method to increase youth knowledge in regard to that critical issue. The remaining 12% preferred the play, performed by SFCG-TL's team, stating that it was an attractive way to increase understanding about mental health. Furthermore, 76% of the 17 participants stated that they will share the information they gained from the event with their peers and 18% reported that the event helped them individually face mental health issues they are dealing with.

On the same day, SFCG supported the Dom Aleixo sub-district youth council to host their own International Youth Day celebration. Sancho, the youth council coordinator, is a "graduate" of CLT School and participant of 2013 Youth Forum. He has used his leadership skill that he gained from CLT and also some experiences that he learned from Youth Forum to organize International Youth Day celebration with his sub-district youth council members in collaboration with local leaders, local government and other organizations, related to theme of event "Youth and Mental Health". The seminar invited guests from NGO Psychosocial Recovery & Development in East Timor (PRADET) to talk about their Program for Mental Health Assistance. The event was very successful and attended by 70 participants (27 female and 43 male), which composed of students, youth suku council representatives, youth group members, and youth church group members.

SFCG also took part in the USAID expo in April 2014. Activities included games, quizzes, music entertainment, comedy theatre from Karau Dikur ba Dame (KDD) actors and the distribution of Babadok Rebenta (BR) CDs and KDD stickers.

3.2 Component area 2. Youth Media for Peacebuilding

Outputs:

Indicator 7: **24,000** comic book editions produced and distributed

Indicator 8: **2** LGs and **13** RCs initiatives created to resolve diverse types of conflict

Indicator 9: **15** new groups **105** LGs members and **251** RC (**125 M, 126 F**) members

Indicator 10: **32** participants attended the Common Ground radio techniques training; 29 community radio volunteers, 2 community radio managers and 1 newspaper editor

Indicator 11: **1** Common Ground radio techniques training conducted among conflict-affected groups

Indicator 12: **24** radio magazines produced and distributed

Indicator 13: **384** radio magazine broadcast

Indicator 14: **25** radio drama episodes produced and distributed

Indicator 15: **493** radio drama episodes broadcast

Indicator 16: **609** participants attended LGs (105), RCs (251), and FGDs (253);

Indicator 17: **2** LGs, **16** RCs and **40** FGDs conducted

Indicator 18: Types of feedback generated during FGDs (see section 3.2.2)

3.2.1 Training on Common Ground Media

Basic Journalism training to the new youth Journalist / Volunteer

From September 26th -28th 2012, SFCG-TL held a three day media training entitled Promoting Media and Empowering Youth, the training was held in Dili and led by Media Officer Zevonia Vieira and Media Project Officer Joao Basilio Da Costa, and co-facilitated by Media Project Officer Longuinhos C. Leite. Thirty-two journalists participated in the training. The overwhelming majority of participants were either reporters or presenters from CRs. Two managers and 1 editor also attended the training. Attendees represented 19 CRs from 10 of the districts of Timor-Leste. Consistent with SFCG-TL's commitment to capacity strengthening through all of its activities, both technical and non-technical training in basic journalism for radio production was covered in addition to training on "Common Ground" reporting techniques. 32 journalists participated in the training out of the 35 Participant. The participant from Radio "Café" Ermera did not attend, SFCG has followed up with Radio Manager prior to the training and confirmed that there will be 3 representatives of CR Café but at the training the three participants did not show up. Radio Café has long story with management issues at the time and it now has been fixed when the CRC of SECOM conducted revision and re-elected Radio Manager and its board.

At the training, the overwhelming majority of participants were either reporters or presenters from CRs. Two managers and 1 editor also attended the training. Attendees represented 19 CRs from 10 districts of Timor-Leste. Consistent with SFCG-TL's commitment to capacity strengthening through all of its activities, both technical and non-technical training in basic journalism for radio production were covered in addition to training on "Common Ground" reporting techniques.

Day 1 of the training consisted of a review of basic journalism, including issue identification and technical methods for reporting and interviewing via radio, and techniques for drafting news media. During Day 2, the principles and techniques of "Peace Journalism" were introduced. Participants were invited to explore conflict related story topics from socially inclusive angles, such as the impact of conflict

on vendors and on children enrolled in school, to broaden the focus of reporting away from incendiary and investigative items. Principles of responsible journalism were also covered on this day, including the importance of presenting multiple viewpoints, due diligence in conducting research prior to reporting, and methods for selecting and informing guests on talk show panels. Day 3 was devoted to exercises where participants practiced the skills and techniques covered during the first two days of the training. Participants prepared items for a talk show and a feature, and then presented their work to the other participants.

SFCG recognized that one stand alone training will not resolved the problem of the capacity within Radio Journalist / volunteers, therefore during the period of the projects, regular coaching was also conducted by the Media Team targeting most weak community radio stations, such CR Cova Taroman - Covalima, CR Tatamailau-Ainaro and CRs Manufahe.

3.2.2 Production of second Cycle-Radio Magazine “Babadok Rebenta”.

On 15 November 2013 the 2nd cycle of Babadok Rebenta (BR) radio magazine went public. The twenty-four episodes focused on issues related to and identified by youth as possible causes of problems among them. These issues cover the topics of:

- Youth dropout of school
- Youth unemployment
- Quality of public school focus on issue on some of the practice to expel pregnant students out of school by teacher / head of school without proper notification or any regulation within the Ministry of Education.
- Martial arts group – focus on an opinion of youth on the Government regulation to close down three main martial arts group
- Nepotisms; focus on Curriculum Vitae/experiences stronger than the family name.
- Youth as an actor for decentralization, university graduates and fieldwork for community change.
- Youth and agriculture.
- Youth and HIV/AIDS.
- Respect your life - focus on current situation of the youth conflict and youth who commit suicide or attempt to, and how to make life more valuable.
- This is my world: look at life of young people who never goes to school.
- Youth and governance: the role of youth representative at suco council and the role of young women representative at suco council.
- Government support to develop sports.
- Raising awareness for the disabled,
- Media and raising awareness of youth issues,
- Language and future of youth education,
- Understand your history-understand yourself.

The 24 episodes were distributed to community radios, and Team has monitor the broadcasting of the Radio Magazine very closed. BR magazine airing period finished in June 2014, and all 24 episodes were broadcasted through 19 radio stations across the country, as shown in the table below.

On Air Schedule

No	Radio	Aired	Finished	On air schedule
1.	Rádiu Atoni Lifau, Oecusse	9	May 2014	Wednesday at 8:30-09:00 pm
2.	Rádiu Boaventura, Same	18	June 2014	Monday at 19:30pm
3.	Rádiu Bucoli, Baucau	11	May 2014	Tuesday 7pm
4.	Rádiu Cova Taroman, Suai	11	May 2014	Monday at 7.00pm and Thursday at 06.15pm
5.	Rádiu Iliuai, Manatuto	11	May 2014	Monday at 07:00-07:30 Thursday 06:30-07:00
6.	Rádiu Jojo FM, Dili	11	May 2014	Monday to Friday at 19:00-19:30pm
7.	Rádiu Liberdade, Dili	12	May 2014	Wednesday & Saturday at 09:00-09:30
8.	Rádiu Loriku Lian, Dili	12	May 2014	Monday
9.	Rádiu Komunitadi Maliana	16	May 2014	Wednesday & Friday at 10.00am
10.	Rádiu Mauloko Maubisse	11	June 2014	Monday at 10:00-10:30am and at 08:00-08:30pm
11.	Rádiu Matebian, Baucau	11	May 2014	Monday to Friday at 09:00-09:30am and at 19:00-19:30pm
12.	Rádiu Tatamailau Ainaro	18	June 2014	Wednesday at 09.00am & 07.30pm
13.	Rádiu Tokodede, Liquica	11	May 2014	Monday & Friday at 7.30pm
14.	Rádiu Povu Viqueque	11	May 2014	Monday and Thursday at 7.00pm
15.	Rádiu Rai Husar, Aileu	11	May 2014	Tuesday at 19:00 & Thursday at 19:00
16.	Rádiu Voxpopuli Lospalos	11	May 2014	Monday at 08:30am & at 20:30pm
17.	Rádiu Lian ba Paz, UNPAZ	11	May 2014	Monday at 09:00-09:30am Saturday at 03:00-03:30pm
18.	Rádiu Akademia UNTL	11	May 2014	On-campus
19.	Rádiu Timor Leste	11	May 2014	Saturday at 5.30pm
	Total broadcast	228		

It was also noted that the SFCG team and its partners has taken rigorous process in production of the Radio Magazine that included a workshop with Radios and Media partners to identified and priorities issues that they want to bring up in the BR radio magazine, listening session focused on check the content of program and provide feedback to improve the quality of content as well as the audio, and drafting of TORs for review with USAID Democracy and Governance unit.

Following the broadcast of Radio Magazine BR, SFCG-TL and community radio partners started production and broadcast of talk shows. The talk show coaching was conducted on-site at each radio station and included planning session, which involved all key staff of community radio partners. The media team applied this method to provide adequate coaching for all community radio partners and support them in achieving the number of shows with good quality of content. Community radio

partners were given opportunities to decide on relevant issues/topic and identify speaker/s that they want to bring it to the talk show as well as using language / dialect that they were more comfortable with.

As part of the mid-term media monitoring activities, the media and DM&E team held FGDs with community radio partners aimed at measuring the effectiveness of the radio program BR among listeners of Radio, in all the districts. The FGDs found that majority of respondents have positive reactions to the subject matter taken by BR. They believed the program has a significant influence on the attitudes of community members. They even cited some demonstrated behavior changes as a response to increased knowledge about topics. SFCG recognizes that there are many limiting factors that hamper listenership rate. Some of these include unreliable radio signal and poor radio frequency. However, lack of awareness about the radio program and inappropriate timing of the program going on air was factors that SFCG uncovered and resolved.

Altogether, 19 FGDs were conducted in 13 districts involving 16 community radio stations. Discussion groups were broken up as follows:

- 1 mixed group (men and women) in 14 community radio station; and
- 2 mixed groups (1 listening to the radio program and 1 as a control not listening to the radio program) in 2 community radio stations (Maubessi and Manatuto).

One of the FGD participants who does *not* regularly listen to radio program BR said: *“I am very disappointed that I do not regularly listen to radio program BR because it is a very interesting program that is really related to my daily life and experiences”, young male participant from Viqueque district.*

Most participants said that their favorite topic were domestic violence, self-employment opportunity, early marriage, and youth and conflict factor such as drugs and martial arts.

Based on the key findings from the FGD, SFCG has extracted the following recommendations:

- Broadcasting of the BR radio program is not enough to attract listenership and make a significant impact on the community. The BR program needs to extend broadcasting time to reach its full potential. This observation was supported by discussions with all participants who took part in the 18 FGDs.
- Each community radio needs to increase their listenership through improved branding and promotion strategies at the community level
- Each community radio station needs to review the program’s airtime and adjust it to the community’s work schedule.

The Recommendation mentioned above have been implemented and followed up by the Media Team. 11 out of 16 community radio stations re-broadcasted Radio Magazine without having SFCG to pay the air time fees. In addition to that SFCG Team has produced more CDs that were distributed to the community radio, youth centres, as well as to the villages that have not reached by Radio frequency.

To enhance the capacity of Radio partners in conducting the FGDs, SFCG Media team conducted an FGD review of community radio stations. The review was comprised of local youth, students, local authorities, and other involved community members.

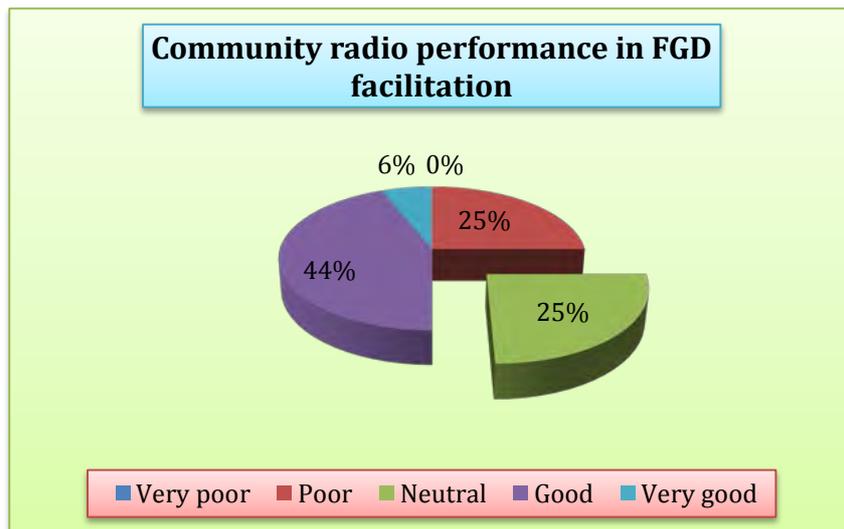
The key messages retained included:

- i. How to prevent potential conflict/domestic violence in the affected area;
- ii. How to create self-employment opportunities;
- iii. The importance and role of youth suku council representatives; and
- iv. How to use the Common Ground solution technique when a conflict occurs.

The community radio stations were asked to recommend any changes that they would like to see in the radio program and to explain their recommendations. Here are the main changes they suggested:

- More engaging features
- Increased length of the program
- An emphasis on the different perspectives of each party while considering the common solution
- A need to interview affected people from each related district

All 16-community radio stations organized and facilitated the FGD session. It was shown that all community radio stations, which collaborated with SFCG, have increased their ability to organize and facilitate. The chart below represents community radio performance during the FGD:

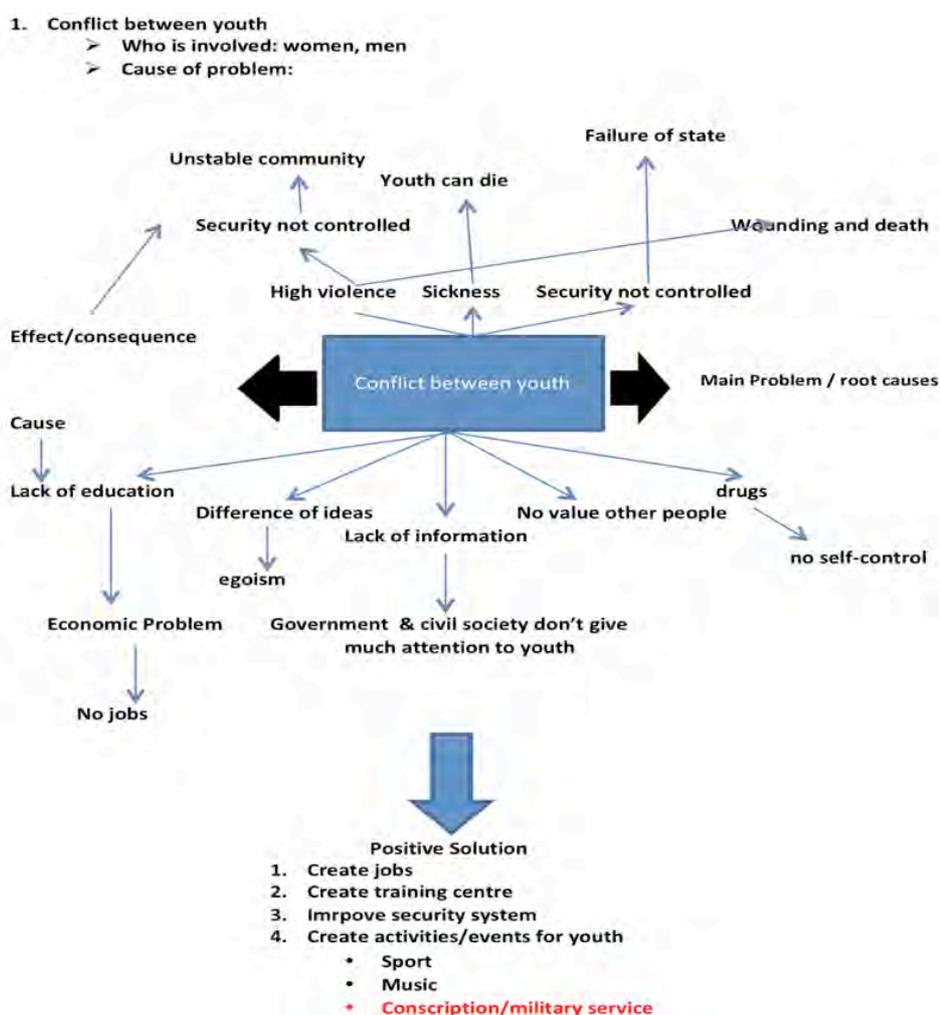


Out of 16 community radio stations, 44% are doing a good job in the facilitation of the FGD, 6% are doing a very good job, while the other 50% are neutral and poor. There were no very poor scores.

The FGDs was concluded in all 13 districts, for detail finding of the FGDs, see the Media Mid term Report can be see / downloaded at <https://www.sfcg.org/tag/timor-leste-evaluations>

3.2.3 Production of Radio Second Cycle Radio Drama Series “Karau Dikur ba Dame”

SFCG started the process of developing second cycle of Radio Drama Series Karau Dikur Ba Dame (KDD) by conducting the Curriculum Summit, which primarily focused on the topics to be covered in the radio drama. Participants in the Curriculum Summit identified and discussed a variety of issues to be covered in the program, including conflict between youth, domestic violence, issues surrounding *fetosan umane* (marriage into families), martial arts, unemployment, young marriage, and political manipulation of youth.



‘Mind map’ created by participants who discussed conflict between youth

The radio drama KDD was launched on 14th March 2014. After the launching, the KDD was broadcasted by all 16 communities radio partners in all 13 districts. The entire episodes were broadcast weekly from March toward July 2014. The radio drama featured a dynamic cast of young local actors and volunteers, and follows the lives of a cast of characters including the Barbosa family, as they negotiate everyday challenges common to people across Timor-Leste. As the characters face these challenges, they find that they are able to overcome conflict by understanding their differences and acting on commonalities. The Tetun-language production focused on four main topics identified by young people from throughout Timor-Leste as being important to themselves and their communities; namely unemployment, domestic violence, youth conflict and youth manipulation. Promoting practical, non-violent, and cooperative ways to address conflict, the drama aims to break down negative stereotypes and provide examples of cooperative solutions to stimulate social progress.

Following the broadcasting of KDD, DM&E team worked with the media team to conduct FGDs on SFCG-TL's radio drama KDD. The objective of the FGDs were:

- To know the number of listeners who listen to KDD as well as the level of understanding in regard to the content and the message, and how they may share the benefit with others
- To reach people who might not be getting the information currently and who might not know about KDD and encourage them to listen to KDD
- To recognize opportunities to apply what they had learnt in their own life, as well as, what changes the radio programs topics has brought to their daily lives.

The FGDs was concluded in all 13 district involved 16 community radio stations, for detail finding of the FGDs, see the Media Mid-term Report can be see / downloaded at <https://www.sfcg.org/tag/timor-leste-evaluations>

3.2.4 Comic Book for Good Governance and Peacebuilding



A dancing group, dressed in Timorese attire, performed a traditional dance that included the handing of gift baskets to notable guests.

The aim of the Comic Books Series, *Hau Nia Aventura (My Adventure)*, was to provide youth with practical civic education tools to deal with conflict in a non-violent way, adapted to the local context, addressing themes of elections, democracy, political reconciliation, social justice and peacebuilding. The series was launched on January 28th at Palacio Nobre alongside National Youth Forum. The Comic books were presented to the honorary guests such as Mr. Fidelis Manuel Leite Magalhães, former President's Chief of Staff, the United States Ambassador, Mrs. Karen C. Stanton, and the Director of USAID, John Seong.

The topics of the comic books were determined by youth themselves and were tested in the field in Aileu, Gleno and Baucau. The books addressed the issues of early marriage “Hau La Kohi Baku no Hakilar”, patriarchal culture “Feto Foun Halo Foun”, political manipulation of youth “Mudansa Nee Possivel, Hau Brani Atu Koko!”, youth’s involvement in violent conflicts “Violensa Mak Lae Duni”, nepotism “Lia Los- Los Nafatin”, and role of young women in village council “Noibete Bele!”. The comic books provide an educational tool to young people on how to resolve conflict away from violence. The comic books were hand-drawn by local illustrator Miguel dos Santos Nuak and the characters and storyline were developed in close collaboration between SFCG team, youth and experts. A total of 24,000 books, 4000 copies of each series, were printed and distributed to all districts including schools, village councils, youth councils, and youth centers, SFCG aimed to print a total of 30,000 copies (5000/series), but due to increasing cost of production against the original cost that was planned in 2012, SFCG has to reduce number of copies to 24.000.

Following the distribution of the comic books, Reading Clubs and Fun Day Activities were implemented in all 13 Districts:

a) Fun Day Seminar

27 youth and youth leaders were selected from different municipalities, especially those who participated in CLTs and Youth Forums, and were invited to participate in a two-day seminar. The seminar’s aim was to bring these youth together and brief them on Hau Nia Aventura’s comic books series campaign. The participants discussed about organizing two main activities: reading clubs and fun day activities.

During the seminar, the participants were directed and aided in designing their activities and planning their budget. They received feedback on how realistic their plans were while they presented them in the group discussion. They also participated in an exercise on how to facilitate focus group discussions and how to prepare narrative and financial reports.

After the seminar, these organizers started the work in their municipalities. In phase one, the organizers have to establish reading clubs in all 13 municipalities and then distribute the comic books through the reading club. In phase two, they conducted a group discussion with the reading club to focus on the message of the comic book and organize fun day activities.

b) Reading Clubs and Fun Day Activities

The reading club and fun activities were conducted in two phases. Phase one was the preparation of establishing reading clubs in all 13 municipalities and distribution of the comic books through Districts Youth Council/Center. Phase two was the fun day and activities. During the fun day, activities included conducting group discussion with the established reading club to focus from one or two comic books that has been selected by the reading club, followed by the fun activities.

13 readings clubs and fun day activities were conducted in 13 municipalities in the month of March to the end of June 2015. The table below gives detailed information on the readings club and type of fun day activities that were held.

Type of fun activities in district:

District	Date	Type Activity	Remarks
Bobonaro	20-21/03	Cycling and football competition, poem writing and reading	GOR Maliana
Aileu	23-24 /03	Culture dance, , sack races, marbles, quiz	Suku Liurai, Aileu
Oe-cusse	24-25/03	Speech competition, Questionnaire competition, Cultural dances	Asrama Topu Honis
Liquiça	27-28/03	Long march, Music concert, Culture dance, tug-o-war, making friends game	Football field, Liquiça
Dili	30-31/03	Debates competition, Music, Questionnaire competition	Matadoro-Dili
Manatuto	10-11/04	Cycling, marbles, pen in basket game, quiz	Manatuto town
Baucau	11-12/04	Questionnaire competition, Quiz, Volleyball	Baucau, old part of town (kota lama)
Viqueque	11-12/04	Theatre, Culture dance and singing, Questionnaire competition	Salao Administrasaun Municipio
Lautem	11-12/04	Volleyball and other possible fun activities	Suku Rasa, Lospalos
Manufahi	12-13/04	Cultural dances, Speech competition, poem competition, stand-up comedy, tug-o-war & sack races	Salao Delta Nova Paroquial, Same (local church hall)
Covalima	13-14/04	Music concert, tug-o-war, sack races, quiz	Suku Matai, Suai
Ermera	15-16/04	Visiting prisoner in Fatukero, Cycling, Speech competition,	Kampo Demokrasia, Gleno
Ainaro	19/04	Speech competition, Cultural dance, Questionnaire competition	Primary School, Ainaro town

At the reading club activities, the most liked character was Mary in the Feto Foun Halo Foun and Maria in Hau Lakohi Baku no Hakilar. The reason being is that they are the heroes in these stories and they show good example to readers on how to move on and find a solution.

Another message that was highly discussed is early marriage and how it limited young people to be involved in constructive life activities. It was also discussed how it can lead to domestic violence due to the immaturity of the young couple. The youth also discussed how youth who find themselves in an early marriage can help themselves by finding a way like Maria in the Feto Foun Halo Foun story to change their lives for the better.

All the youth across all three reading club FGDs were conducted universally enthusiastic about the topics of the comic books they had read, which covered early marriage, domestic violence, women’s empowerment, and youth being manipulated by political figures. Youth found these above topics not only interesting and engaging, but extremely relevant to their own lives and communities- so much so that with only minor exceptions, all of the youth shared the comic books with their parents, siblings, friends, and neighbors and discussed the content with them. This “multiplier effect” is an

extremely positive unintended effect of the program, and demonstrates that the comic books are a high effective tool for changing knowledge, attitude, and possibly even behavior among families in Timor-Leste. The youth especially liked that the comic books highlighted good and bad behavior choices, leaving the reader to think and make their own decisions.

SFCG has discussed with the General Director of Secondary Education and Vocational School, Ministry of Education (MOE) regarding the possibility of using the Comic book in schools, as this could be a legacy for the YEPS project, and any such initiatives to re-print or expand the distribution of the comic books are likely to yield very positive impacts. As follow up from the discussion, six copies of the comic book series have been handed to MOE. SFCG is following up with MOE to hold a ceremony to donate 1800 copies of the comic books, 300/series to MOE.

3.2.5 Class Art and Exhibition

Search for Common Ground-Timor-Leste (SFCG-TL) and implementing partner Arte Moris conducted a series of 4 days art classes in four regions of Timor-Leste in Dili, Baucau, Suai, and Oecusse. The Art Classes were attended by a total of 80 young participants covering all districts of Timor-Leste. For dates and numbers of each regional Art Class, see table 1 below.

The Art Classes were designed to foster an appreciation for art among youth aged 15 to 25. Arte Moris introduced students to a variety of materials and artistic concepts to evoke their curiosity and to hone their natural creativity, which included painting, sketching, and using recycled material for sculpture with an emphasis on exploration. The facilitators from Arte Moris taught the youth participants in a fun, relaxed environment where they can express their creativity and gain self-confidence.

Furthermore, the Art Classes aimed to increase capacities and explore talents of young men and women in the arts, and to create network of friendship among youth interested in the arts and who want to contribute to peacebuilding and the development process. Youth participants learnt how art activities could lead to peace over the first three and half days. On the last day of the training, the youth learnt how to put an exhibition together of the art pieces they created. The youth participants expressed their appreciation to having the opportunity to attend the very useful training and asked when they will have the opportunity again.

Cesario Augusto Soares Lourdes, a member of Arte Moris and one of its founders, led and facilitated the art classes. Cesario added, “Although facilitating this art class is familiar to me, I was able to learn about how art can be associated with peace. I was more confident to facilitate this class after the briefing I received from SFCG team. In the end, I very much enjoyed facilitating the class. The participants were all enthusiastic and disciplined in their learning process, sometimes they would forget to take a break and a snack!”

Table 1: Dates and Number of Participants for the regional Art Classes in 2015

Date	Region	Districts	# Of males	# Of females	Total
Feb. 17th-20th	Dili	Dili, Liquica, Bobonaro, and Ermera	19	5	24
Mar. 4th-7th	Baucau	Baucau, Lospalos, Viqueque, and Manatuto	19	7	26
Feb. 17th-20th	Suai	Covalima, Manufahi, Ainaro, and Aileu	19	7	26
Feb. 28th-Mar. 3rd	Oecusse	Oecusse	14	14	28
Total			52	28	80

All participants in the art classes from the four regions expressed that this initiative taught them that art has many benefits and it's not just to make money and a living. More importantly, art is a suitable tool in reducing the possibility of youth from involving themselves in potential conflict.

The participants thanked SFCG-TL and Arte Moris for designing and implementing the Art Classes program for youth especially for youth who are at risk of developing behavioral problems that this program can help them develop new skills that will lead to positive behaviors

Art is as one example of a tool in promoting peace building in the society, especially among youth who are prone to engagement in violent conflicts. During the art class progress, all participants' art class, from 4 regions said that art is a suitable tool in reducing youth who tend to involve themselves into potential conflict.

Of the 49% of art class participant in 4 regions (male 55% and female 36%) increased their knowledge about art and communication skill by using art to promote potential conflict violent reduction among youth at risk. And while 31% male and female 15% of participant said that they were still eager to learn more as 4-day class was not enough. Some said that when they return to their sub-district, that they would try to gather a small group of friends and share with them what they gained from the art class, such as using empty boxes, empty cans, ashtrays, plastics, etc. while also helping the environment and not costing any money.

4. Synergy with other Initiative

SFCG under USAID-YEPS project organized 2 National Youth Forums in accordance with the plan in addition to one national youth forum, which was held in May 2015. The Forums were helpful as platforms providing youth the opportunity for discussing, learning, connecting and coordinating around issues affecting youth. Participants first attended a panel discussion organized by SFCG with National Leaders specifically those relevant to the issues that was identified by young people and then spent the next days in groups raising issues they felt are currently important and effect youth and community across country and discussing difficulties, solutions, and realistic recommendations to address the issues. The forum has strengthened

connection between the participant and the Government representative specifically with the SoSYS. It should also be noted that the youth that attended the Youth Forum were invited to organize and be involved in the national consultation for the revision of the 2nd National youth policy. In addition, SFCG's media team were also heavily involved in facilitating group discussions during the National Conference on the NYP which was held in November 2014.

Aside of the youth conference, the Youth Forum activities were also synergized with other initiatives such as the development of the Community Policing policy and programs. The PNTL members who attended the forums emphasized the need of conducting dialogues between Community Police with the young people not only at the national level but also at the district level. The youth forum also give an overview of the youth issues specifically how youth engaged in the conflict with the PNTL so that the PNTL will be able to come up with measures on how to respond in accordance with human rights standard. The work with police through the youth forums led to synergies with the New Zealand Police and their work in USAID's HAKOHAK program, which lacked a youth-police dialogue component.

The CLTs trainings created **linkages** (partners/staff/management, government, institutions, methods) between the different components of the EC's DAME program e.g. Youth Entrepreneurship Service grants and District Youth Forum. The trainings also created linkages with other components, such as with youth who assisted with media monitoring or participated in radio programs. Such **cross-fertilization** make the Civic Leadership program an exemplary component of both the YEPS and DAME projects.

The YEPS project has a strong media/outreach component with district and national reach, representing perspectives from all parties, mainstreaming dialogues and mechanisms for civic participation and democratic practices, with specific focus on the inclusion of youth. As part of YEPS project 'developing effective information and communications strategies' the project supported Timor-Leste's nascent media sector through media trainings including community radio conference with the Government / SECOM and public outreach through its BR, KDD and talk shows.

The YEPS youth and media activities have synergy with SFCG activities supported by other donors, specifically the EC funded DAME project (capacity assessments and capacity building of radio station and youth councils) and with the Norway Ministry of Foreign Affairs Women's Empowerment and Access to Justice project (WEA2J).

Under the DAME project, capacity strengthening of district youth councils and community radio stations was a major component, in conjunction with co-shared project activities. Each partner underwent capacity assessments and training programs were tailored according to their levels of capacity.

As with the YEPS project, DAME's and WEA2J's focus was on radio, as radio was perceived as an appropriate mechanism to share information: affordable and accessible, and effective in view of the high rates of illiteracy especially in rural areas. Whereas the majority of Timorese do not have access to TV or computers, most have access to radio, also in remote areas⁵. Two National Media Surveys, conducted in

2006 and 2010 respectively concluded that radio was and still is the most important source of information in Timor-Leste - radio still has the highest reach of any individual medium. As such, it can be concluded that the project focus on (capacity building of) radio is highly **relevant**. Activities included trainings for radio stations in conducting FGDs, talkshows and producing Public Outreach Service Announcements as well as reflection meetings.

SFCG also worked in close partnership with SECOM /CRC Department, and together conducted one-day conference and three-day workshop from 16th to 19th of December 2013, brought together more than 120 participants from approximately 20 community and commercial radio stations across Timor-Leste. The participants included managers, journalists and members of the Boards of Directors from each station.

During the conference, the Developing Radio Partner's Managing Director, Mr. Charles Rice, conducted a presentation on community radio "best practices" using examples from within Timor-Leste as well as Africa. The presentation emphasized the importance of transparency, community engagement, local programming and how each of these points relates to a healthy and sustainable radio station. The presentation also provided an introduction to Mr. Rice's focus during the three-day workshop that followed the conference.

Mr. Rice was asked by SFCG and the CRC, the main organizer of the event, to focus on eight main areas: 1) community mapping; 2) sustainability and mission; 3) business models and strategic planning; 4) leadership; 5) community engagement and programming; 6) managing staff and volunteers; 7) marketing and fundraising; 8) the role of the Board of Directors.

Baseline and follow-up surveys were conducted at the workshop that involved 22 station managers. However, two of the managers who took part in the initial survey, did not show up for the follow-up. As a result, only the results from the 20 managers who took both surveys are used in the evaluation.

The 20 managers were asked 10 questions with the possibility of scoring a maximum of 50 points. The maximum score for all 20 managers would be 1000 points. (20 x 50)

Actual pre-test scores for participants = 437 out of 1000. The average score was **21**.

Percentage scores at pre-test were **43%**. (Actual/expected x 100)

Actual post-test scores for participants = 695 out of 1000. The average score was **35**.

Percentage scores at post-test were **69%**. (Actual/expected x 100)

Overall, there was a **26%** knowledge gain by participants by the end of the training.

Rumor Management Training

From October 29th to 31st 24 young media professionals from all over Timor-Leste came together in Dili for the SFCG-TL Rumors Management Training. 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. The Secretary of State for Social Communication, Nelio Isaac Sarmiento, launched the Training; and 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 3-day 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.

Trainers also took participants through exercises to help them better understand the nature of violence and conflict and their often- unpredictable course. They were asked to question how conflicts become violent and, ultimately, how conflict ends. Key to training was learning to identify conditions that encourage the spread of rumors – while examining how, in special circumstances, they might even work on favor of society and journalists.

Common Ground Talk Show Training

In March, the media team organized and delivered a national training for talk show presenters in Dili, which lasted three days. Representatives from all 13 districts were attended which included participants from Community Radio Maliana, Tokodede-Liquica, Povo Viqueque, Bucoli-Baucau, Radio Matebian-Baucau, Voxpopuli Lospalos-Lautem, Rai Husar-Aileu, Mauloko Maubisse-Ainaro, Tatamailau-Ainaro, Boaventura-Manufahi, Cova Taroman-Covalima, Atoni Lifau-Oecusse, Lorico Lian-Dili, Liberdade-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 366 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 also comprised of role-plays where participants presented their own shows, followed by discussion.

The media team also brought in two speakers, including the former 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 percent of participants reported the training to be helpful and 93 percent stated that they had identified topics to use during their own productions.

After the conference, SFCG continued to work with SECOM/CRC to meet with Radio Tatamailau and new board members in Ainaro as well as working together on administrative issues such as MoUs, agreements and payment procedures as well as sharing results of capacity assessments.

5. Project Monitoring Performance Evaluation (PMEP)

SFCG is committed to using monitoring and evaluation systems in order to ensure high standards in accountability to program participants and beneficiaries, as well as USAID, and contribute to the body of knowledge on conflict transformation and peacebuilding through improved Engagement of Youth in Stability⁶.

As part of this multifaceted effort, SFCG-TL conducted a Joint **baseline survey** for evaluation purposes, providing a glimpse into the various ways in which youth and NGOs in Timor-Leste are organizing themselves in the Peacebuilding and democratization process today. It has examined associated Peacebuilding roles filled by Non- State actors and the government of Timor-Leste (GoTL) within the post conflict context, while providing a detailed profile on youth radio listenership throughout the country. The hope was that this information will provide a deeper understanding of youth, Peacebuilding and engagement with media at the time and how the YEPS project could improve on past results from the Youth Radio for Peacebuilding project.

In August 2012 SFCG-TL began to collect indicators for the evaluations of SFCG-TL's primary projects: i) USAID YEPS; and ii) EC DAME. The assessment was conducted amongst four separate demographics in Timor-Leste in six selected districts - youth, government affiliates, NGO affiliates and the public. A total of 1,431 individuals were selected for interviews through a random sampling procedure. The thematic areas covered in the surveys included: youth participation in peacebuilding, radio listenership, NGO organizational capacity and civil society's overall understanding of youth issues in Timor-Leste today.

Results from the assessment indicate that most respondents perceive the role of youth as important in moving the peace process forward, yet were split over having an understanding of the current issues faced by Timorese youth. While results from certain districts indicate that youth do receive some support from the government, results were largely mixed with respondents from Dili overwhelmingly stating they felt youth rarely receive government support. The majority of youth reported that they voted in the 2012 landmark, parliamentary elections; however, levels of youth civic and political participation dropped drastically after the event. It is here, in activities designed to enhance the engagement process, where SFCG-TL seeks to expand youth activity within important dialogues and throughout decision-making processes⁷.

Throughout the project implementation, SFCG has carried out ongoing monitoring using a set of tools to monitor progress, identify success stories and areas for improvements. This included: pre- and post-tests; media monitoring; focus group discussions; semi-structured interviews; case studies; follow-up surveys, and radio listenership surveys. The Youth Project officer was initially responsible in facilitating monitoring process, which was then taken over by the DM&E Coordinator and DM&E Associate, who were responsible to collect, process, analyze and disseminate the data and reports to all relevant stakeholders, including USAID. The information

⁶ See annex Result level frameworks "Updated PMP " YEPS project

⁷ for the details result of baseline survey report please visit

https://www.sfcg.org/wpcontent/uploads/2014/09/SFCG_YEPS_DAME-Baseline-Report- FINAL-publication.pdf

collected was disaggregated by age, gender, language category and district, and is analyzed and distributed in quarterly monitoring bulletins. The results of the on going monitoring were also shared in reflection meetings of SFCG staff and its partners held every six months. Such reflection meetings provided an opportunity to improve program implementation methodologies and processes; mid-way through the program implementation, which helped improve quality of results. The results are used as a partner and staff capacity building tool, to develop responsive learning culture within organizations. The data collected through ongoing monitoring will be stored in a living-monitoring database developed with the help of Microsoft Access database management software.

A final external evaluation was conducted to serve the purpose of ‘accountability to stakeholders, and learning to improve effectiveness.’⁸ It does so by measuring the results of the project against the baseline data; examining its relevance to the evolving context; effectiveness in achieving the desired results; and sustainability in the community, thus resulting into greater impact on increased accountability, participatory governance and rule of law in Timor-Leste. The midterm and final evaluation was carried out based on the five evaluation criteria guided by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development - Development Assistance Committee “OECD-DAC”⁹ guidelines namely: relevance, effectiveness, coordination/coherence, impact, and sustainability. The evaluation took a particular look into the contribution of SFCG programming in institutionalizing the accountability of local government authorities, inclusive governance that is representative of its constituencies and people-centered rule of law and judicial mechanisms. The changes brought by the project will be measured through the four levels of changes: personal, relational, structural and cultural, which provides a holistic picture of the projects impact in bringing changes to individual to cultural level.

An endline survey was conducted in March 2015 for the DAME project and data was collected by surveying 741 youth in 6 districts: Dili, Manatuto, Baucau, Liquica, Ermera and Bobonaro. 411 were between the ages of 15-29, 243 between ages of 30-49 and 87 between the ages of 50-69. Districts that corresponded with the baseline survey were resurveyed in the same survey areas. Hence, this data can also be used for the YEPS project. Qualitative data, through FGDs and Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) was collected by the external evaluator between May 13-26th in six districts of Timor-Leste: Dili, Manatuto, Baucau, Ermera, Liquica, and Aileu.

The following results were achieved in the following outcome indicators:

Indicator 21: **191** (from 741) East Timorese youth in targeted communities who have demonstrated the use of non-adversarial approaches and cooperative solutions. Examples of activities included organizing community activities between neighborhoods to create peace, being involved in meeting to resolve martial arts problem, and participating in dialogues on land conflicts.

Indicator 22: **33%** (baseline 20%) of youth surveyed in the project locations who are collaborating with social and political structures for common community projects.

⁸Evaluation Policy, USAID, Bureau for Policy, Planning, and Learning, January 19th 2011.

⁹ Guidance on conducting effective evaluations of conflict prevention and peacebuilding work.

The youth surveyed listed that they had worked with suku council, NGOs, CBOs, local government, political parties, church, student organizations, women's organizations and networks.

Indicator 23: **3** collaborative activities led by young women, an external evaluator collected the data below.

Indicator 24: **106** people from 'at-risk groups' reached through USG-supported conflict mitigation activities. Activities include art classes, many of which were from rural youth, and youth who attended CLTs and youth forums who were from rural areas and at-risk groups.

Indicator 26: 30% of youth participants demonstrate increased knowledge of leadership, democratic principles and conflict transformation. Data collected from CLTs shows that there was a 30% increase of knowledge in leadership and conflict transformation. Data collected during baseline show that 64% male, 57% female understand democratic principles; while during endline 67% males, 56% females. This could be due to the changing political climate with decentralization.

Indicator 27: 21% of youth surveyed who report actively participating in election and post-election democratic exercises. In the baseline, 89% male, 83% female answered that they actively participated in election processes, most of which refers to voting. Data collected during the endline shows that 11% (19% male, 9% female) participated in post-election activities including: group activities in peacebuilding and dialogue, consultation with political parties, municipal consultations, local elections, community dialogues. 77 youth 10 % (66% males, 34% females) participated in political or local activities including civil society forum, youth forums, suku council meetings, public meetings, dialogues, network meetings. In addition, 44% of youth surveyed in the endline are involved in political parties.

Indicator 28: 1 joint initiative organized by Timorese youth and national level political decision makers that promote constructive engagement of youth in peace and development process. For International Youth Day, the Dom Aleixo youth council organized a panel discussion in coordination with local and national government.

Indicator 29: # of USG-assisted facilitated events geared toward strengthening understanding and mitigating conflict between groups, 11 stakeholder meetings held.

Indicator 30: 39% of population that listens regularly to the radio magazine and radio drama (baseline 19% BR, 8% KDD; midterm BR 51% - 18% regular; KDD 41% - 21% regular). Listenership generally improved in both radio magazines and radio dramas by 13%. After community radio became involved in the listenership survey, they realized the importance of promoting their radio station and their programs. In 2014, SECOM/CRC established new community radio boards, while some community radio stations have new managers, such as Ermera and Same.

Indicator 32: 39% (27% baseline) of population that shows an increased understanding of issues of importance to youth. Issues identified in the endline survey identified youth employment opportunities as highest, followed by education, civic engagement, cooperation and collaboration across different youth groups, leadership development as the five highest responses. Other responses included participation in

decision making process, political participation, collaboration with social and political structures for decision making, healthcare of youth, others). These issues are consistent with those that were identified during youth forum and curriculum summits for SFCG radio programs.

6. Final Evaluation

The evaluation is a final, summative evaluation of the Youth Engagement to Promote Stability (YEPS) program, which was implemented by Search for Common Ground during the period of 38 months, conducted by Kelsi Stine, an independent evaluation consultant and former SFCG employee¹⁰, between April and June 2015, including an in-country visit during the month of May. The evaluation was conducted with a utilization-focused approach, as the evaluator based a wide range of decisions on evaluation design and implementation to the functional needs of the SFCG-TL Country Office.

The overall objective of the final evaluation was to assess to what extent the project has contributed in strengthening stability process in Timor-Leste and how has it improved the communication and dialogue between youth, CSOs and decision makers at various levels. SFCG wants to explore how the YEPS project was implemented, to what extent the project objectives and results were achieved, as well as furnish recommendations for similar and expansion of project interventions for the future.

The Evaluation has covered five core issues: relevance, effectiveness, impact, coordination and visibility. Findings from the evaluation are summarized as below¹¹:

The YEPS program proposal was based on ambitious design language that emphasized changes in behavior and relationship for Timorese youth. If interpreted *strictly* through the lens of the logic framework's goal, objectives, and results, the project appears limited in its successes. For example, the project did not improve engagement between youth and government leaders outside of the context of the YEPS forum activities, improve sector-wide coordination on youth issues between peacebuilding actors, or instill youth with a keen understanding of their rights and responsibilities as citizens and social stakeholders- all of which were stated as intended program results in the original proposal. Key reasons for this shortcoming included the following:

1. **The YEPS program design emphasized doing a wide variety of activities (civic leadership trainings, youth forums, debate clubs, reading clubs, art classes, and a listening club), all with different youth and all on a one-off basis without follow-up.** While this meant that over a thousand youth had the opportunity to participate in a YEPS activity, they were left without a clear "next-step" about how to further develop or apply their skills. The individual level changes that resulted are not likely to be sustained or utilized in Timor-Leste's "civic space" without further assistance. Furthermore, the youth activities all had different objectives and expectations and occurred in

¹⁰ The evaluator had no previous professional contact, relationship, or work experience with the SFCG-TL office.

¹¹ Full Final evaluation report "Final Evaluation Youth Engagement to Promote Stability 2015", Kelsi Stine, 2015, can be obtain at SFCG Timor Leste office

isolation of one another, and for this reason they did not “add up” to more than isolated changes among specific youth.

2. **The community radio stations have extremely low capacity, and cannot afford to pay their volunteer journalists or purchase much-needed radio equipment and transportation.** SFCG-TL very appropriately focused most of their efforts with the radio stations on strengthening this capacity, primarily through trainings, mentoring, and providing the stations with ready-made programs (Babadok Rebenta! “BR” and Karau Dikur ba Dame “KDD) to air. Engaging youth and communities as radio listeners was not a heavy focus of the programming strategy, nor of the final evaluation. Overall the community radio stations were highly appreciative of the assistance they received and successfully applied it in their work, there was also an *unexpected negative impact* - a very high number of SFCG-trained volunteer journalists left to get paying jobs once they had developed new media skills.

These findings should not be taken in isolation, however. A broader view of the YEPS program, the expectations of the people behind it, and **a better understanding of the Timorese context show that the project had numerous celebratory achievements.** Interviews with SFCG-TL staff and USAID show that neither group saw the specific proposal language as high realistic, and that they had more grounded expectations that they used in practice to assess the YEPS programs effectiveness. These de-facto objectives and intended results were never explicitly written, but took into consideration the practical, financial, and time limitations of implementing a three-year peacebuilding project in Timor-Leste. For example, they emphasized the value of providing youth with positive and engaging extra-curricular activities and recognized that most Timorese youth have extremely limited opportunities for skill building and self-betterment. Having them coordinate joint activities with government leaders and engage meaningfully in civic dialogue is desirable but likely to occur further down the line. They also recognized the extremely low capacity of Timorese community radio stations. For this reason, SFCG-TL focused more on providing them with high quality radio programs to broadcast and on improving their skill level in basic journalism, and somewhat less on how the radio programs that result are changing the community.

Though the evaluation TOR and Lines of Inquiry that guided the evaluation process and structure this final report are written with an eye to the ambitious proposal language and objectives, the informal, “lower-level objectives” described above more accurately reflect the Timorese reality and highlight what next steps are most appropriate. **Using this analytical framework shows that the YEPS project was highly successful in a number of key areas that meaningfully contribution to national peacebuilding and development.** Notably, most of these changes took place at the individual level and in isolated circumstances, unlike the community level change and widespread individual change suggested by the YEPS proposal. For a three-year project, these changes still suggest that the YEPS program activities were relevant to the needs of youth and individually effective at working toward national peacebuilding goals:

- **Youth who participated in the YEPS project, especially those engaged in the CLT’s and youth forums, developed new skills in leadership, problem-solving, public speaking, and conflict resolution.** They also

developed greater sense of self, motivation, and positive attitudes. Youth were extremely enthusiastic and appreciative about the opportunities offered to them through YEPS and were eager for future opportunities for self-improvement. Staff and youth interviewed for the evaluation also believe that by offering youth *any* extra-curricular activity, it deters them from joining MAGs and abusing drugs and alcohol.

- **Youth from the CLTs, forums, and reading clubs applied new knowledge, skills, and self-confidence to address personal disputes or other issues in their own lives.** Many, but not all of the youth from the six CLT/forum FGDs shared that they applied their new skills and confidence in problem solving to address personal disputes with friends, to become better leaders within their own youth groups, or to help their friends and neighbors. The youth from the reading clubs loved the YEPS comic books, and all of them reported sharing them with their parents, friends, and neighbors, and held their own independent discussions about the value of the comic book messages. Many of the reading club youth even took initiative to mediate local disputes about domestic violence among neighbors and relations.
- **The youth forums gave youth the opportunity to engage with government officials at the local and national level.** Most often, this was in the form of listening to government officials give speaking presentations, though a small number of youth got to ask questions during Q&A sessions. Though the eight government officials interviewed for the evaluation were divided on the degree to which they engage youth in their own work, they all viewed their participation in the forum as positive. YEPS youth participants and government officials have not yet formed independent relationships or collaboration, and similarly, not many participant youth are engaged in the “civic space” of their community through suku councils, youth councils, and other governance meetings, but positive engagement at the forums is a good first step.
- **In at least ten instances, youth from the YEPS project applied the skills they learned to help their communities.** These small, independent initiatives included starting an art class for youth, creating a seedling growing project, and training other youth in their own communities. Given the low-quality of secondary education in Timor-Leste and the scarcity of opportunities for youth to learn new skills and develop themselves, these examples show that some “superstar” youth are capable of taking a small amount of training and applying it to help others. If SFCG provides more follow-up work with youth in the future, these are the sorts of results that they can expect on a broader level.
- **Despite the high attrition rate of trained radio volunteers, those that stayed directly applied what they learned in creating new radio talk shows, which they use to highlight youth role models; bring attention to important issues in peacebuilding, governance, and development; and solve disputes among local parties on air.** Some radio stations also benefitted in terms of improved internal management and administration. All six radio stations interviewed for this evaluation believe that they are a vital information source in their communities and were highly committed to continue using their media work to bring peace to their areas. Like the youth, radio station staff are eager, appreciative, committed, directly apply what they

learn, and have high absorptive capacity if future opportunities are provided to them.

- **SFCG produced two, high-quality radio programs, Babadok Rebenta and Karau Dikur ba Dame, which address issues to youth and peacebuilding, and were broadcast in 13 districts of Timor-Leste.** SFCG is proud of having made new seasons of these radio programs and sharing them with radio stations so that their messages can reach Timorese citizens everywhere.
- **SFCG is becoming a nationally-recognized leader on youth issues, and is working as part of “Team 9”, a policy revision group organized by the Secretary of State for Youth and Sport or SoSYS, to draft the new national youth policy and assist in developing better concept / strategy for one Gate policy to improve service coordination on youth services sectors in Timor-Leste as well as an action point of the strategy related established coordination mechanism highlighted in the National youth Policy of Timor-Leste.** SFCG’s Country Director, USAID, and the SoSYS all shared that SFCG-TL was moving into this leadership role; finding a powerful national outlet for their work encouraging youth dialogue and understanding youth priorities in the current Timorese context.

Overall, SFCG-TL of it YEPS project should be proud of what they achieved in only three years through the YEPS program. All main program outputs have been completed, including youth activities, a radio drama, a radio news show, and various capacity building activities and trainings for partners and community radio staff. SFCG-TL is now well positioned to continue doing more programs with youth, building on the existing networks it established through the youth mapping, its partnership with the SoSYS and its strong understanding of the needs, priorities, and aspirations of the nation’s youth. Indeed, more work is needed if the existing, individual-level changes achieved with youth and radio stations are to not only be expanded, by merely sustained. It is encouraging that all project participants, including government officials, are willing and eager for future programs to strengthen the role of youth in Timorese society and offer them positive alternatives to violence and socially destructive behavior.

7. Future Directions and Recommendation

- Future Directions:

Having completed two projects with USAID assistance focused on youth and media, and operating in Timor-Leste for five years, SFCG is now well placed to continue its work in these two areas. However, with the change in USAID’s CDSC away from peacebuilding, SFCG will now refocus its program areas to capacity strengthening, thereby promoting peacebuilding through a strengthened civil society, skilled youth and skilled media organizations. SFCG will build upon the following:

Building Partnerships and Increasing Coordination with Government

Through the two projects and other complimentary projects, SFCG has quickly built relationships with SoSYS and SECOM through the CRC. SFCG also made new partnerships with PNTL, the Department of Community Conflict Resolution, under the Ministry of Interior, State Secretariat for the Support and Socio-Economical Promotion of Women and other government departments. SFCG’s country director is

now working with SoSYS on the revision of the national youth policy, bringing with him his experience in media, youth and peacebuilding.

Promoting project partners and their volunteers

SFCG also has worked closely with the National Youth Council and the community radio stations as project partners and hopes to continue this work. However, through various activities, SFCG was able to build the capacities of these partners and their member volunteers through training, co-facilitation and M&E activities, thus ensuring sustainability. Despite some volunteers leaving to pursue paid employment, they are still key to engaging youth through their new endeavors. Those remains youth volunteers have shown commitment and enthusiasm to continue working with youth and media. SFCG remains committed to building and strengthening the capacity of youth and media organizations in peacebuilding and journalism.

Promotion of young women

Throughout the period of project implementation, SFCG has emphasized gender balance in all of its activities where possible and has encouraged community radio stations and youth councils to recruit and promote young women in their organizations. Some requests were made to hold youth forums for just young women but SFCG had found during the evaluation of WEA2J that young men felt left out of the radio program “Her Story”¹². Therefore, SFCG has focused on promoting young women and encouraging young men and their peers to do the same. An effect of this promotion work became evident in 2014, when the youth parliament alumni organized a long march on International Women’s Day. Recognizing that SFCG were not able to achieve results in collaborative activities led by young women, future projects may focus on this area. SFCG are currently in process of selection for funding from the UN Trust Fund that includes training in journalism and radio program production for young women.

Multiplier Effects

After taking into consideration lessons learned from the project and recommendations from the external evaluation, SFCG plans to develop projects that focus on implementing activities with follow-up activities, increasing the number of tools that have multiplier effects such as comic books and manuals, and exploring the use of other tools that can be used by many. While SFCG did take the initiative to train youth in ToT of CLTs, many youth were unable to provide trainings due to lack of funding in their districts and communities.

- Recommendation (SFCG, Government and Donors)
 1. Expand future youth programming to work with youth in remote areas. Design youth-oriented activities that stick to one strategy and the build on each other with the same group of participants.
 2. Youth need more “follow up” support (training, funding, coaching) to be empowered as change-agents in their community.
 3. Do less with more. Focus on a few activities or areas and then invest heavily and increase dosage.

¹² External Evaluation report “Empowering Women and Increasing Access to Justice in Timor-Leste”, Peaceworks, 2014.

4. Continue work with community radio stations to increase capacity and community engagement, think creatively about knowledge retention, address the high turnover rate among volunteer journalists in future radio capacity building efforts. Until this problem is addressed, SFCG capacity building efforts will continue to both help and hinder the strengthening of community radio stations in Timor-Leste.
5. Capitalize on the effectiveness of the comic books. The youth who had received the 6 series of comic book and participated in a listening club were extremely enthusiastic about the books - not only because they were engaging, but because they provided constructive messages on social issues that the youth viewed as important to their personal relationships and livelihoods. In most cases, youth shared the comic books with parents, siblings, and friends, creating a powerful multiplier effect of a single book. There are currently efforts by SFCG-TL's to coordinate with the Ministry of Education about the possible use of the comic books in schools. This is an excellent effort, and any such initiatives to re-print or expand the distribution of the comic books are likely to yield very positive impacts.
6. Expand future youth programming to work with youth in remote areas. From all the National youth Forum, FGDs for the YEPS evaluation almost unanimously urged SFCG to expand their work to engage youth at the suku-level, village level, and in rural areas.
7. Develop long-term strategies that can respond to youth needs through multi-sector and holistic youth-focused programs.
8. Allocate the necessary funds based on youth needs and respond also to the National Youth Policy in order to contribute to national development and to build peace which is sustainable, systematic and significant based on the action plans from the youth.
9. Have a good monitoring and evaluation system that can measure results from the state budget allocation and spending, which can be done through the Youth Parliament network.
10. Have adequate and strong coordination between each ministry so that there is no duplication of work between SoSYS, SEPFOPE and Ministry of State Administration and Territorial Management; specifically to give priority to young people to take part in National Village Development Program (PNDS) and other development initiatives so that the youth do not become just observers or audiences within their own communities.
11. Socialize more information for all youth starting from the village level up to national level through the media including community radio as well as youth parliament so that youth gain knowledge about the progress of SEJD's work.
12. Develop capacity building strategy that is systematic and efficient for the members of Youth Parliament so that they can carry out their roles as youth representatives that are confident, believe in themselves and strong.
13. Strengthen the role of the youth representative in village councils, so that they can actively participate in the decision-making process and in developing adequate capacity building plan.
14. The lack of funding has driven some community radio stations to want to integrate into government-run municipal radios, but this risks eliminating one of the few sources of independent, grassroots-run media sources in most of the country. USAID and other donors need to ensure that there is continue funding to support the community Radio center inline with current changes in Timor

Leste, such as Decentralization processes, Village election (in early 2016), and the Parliamentary election in 2017, Community Radio center needs to have independent sources (not relying on the funding from the Government / SECOM), that will booster impartiality.

15. Provide more investment in youth; even though some donors have increased their support for youth work in social, economic and political development, there are not enough strategies or information about policies and strategies. Complementary policy and strategy development can be reflected through providing funds to implement programs that specifically respond to the needs of youth.
16. Provide additional support to youth activities. While many donors have been supporting youth activities, the problems youth face have not been clearly defined in a comprehensive manner. Furthermore, there is not much information available in regard to youth programs and funds. Therefore, we recommend donors to evaluate how programs and activities can be adjusted to be more in line with donor's policies and strategies, and to re-examine their policies and strategies in order to develop policies that respond to youth needs.
17. Gather donors together through dialogue to discuss various program models in order to promote the participation of youth, improve communication about successes and failures, and identify barriers and solutions to these obstacles.
18. Encourage practitioners to conduct a comprehensive review of youth programs, with specific focus in the business development area such as youth livelihood, youth entrepreneurship, and youth empowerment and violence prevention in order to collect key lessons learned. This can also include building resource centers for youth or develop online resources centers, which will gather all research results and key evidence from guidelines, references and case studies.
19. Develop programs to encourage youth to work in agriculture that is sustainable and lucrative through economic development over the long-term so that rural-urban migration of youth can be reduced. We recognize that the government has been giving incentives to agriculture through the supply of equipment but there needs to be a transformation of the agriculture sector to become a potential job market for the youth so that they can improve their livelihoods and prosper through agribusiness.

No	Indicator Source	Performance Indicator	Data Source	Disaggregated by	Reporting Frequency	Target FY 2012	FY 2012 Actual	Target FY 2013	FY 2013 Actual	Target FY 2014	Actual FY 2014	Target FY 2015	FY 2015 Actual	Life of Project Target (LOP)	End of Project (EOP)
1	YEPS Logical Framework	# of youth who have completed USG-assisted civic leadership training	Participants list	Age, gender, affiliation and location and 35% of women participants	Quarterly	-	-	100	144	50	46	50	50	200	240
2	YEPS Logical Framework	# of Civic leadership training sessions conducted	Activity report and pre- and post- tests	District	Quarterly	-	-	4	6	2	2	2	2	8	10
3	YEPS Logical Framework	# of regional and national university debates, civic education seminars and panel discussions conducted	Activity report	District/location	Quarterly	-	-	3	3	3	3	-	-	6	6
4	YEPS Logical Framework	# Of participants in regional and national university debates, civic education seminars and panel discussions	Activity report and participant list	Age, gender, affiliation and location. 35% of women participants	Quarterly	-	-	120	160	135	140	-	-	255	300
5	YEPS Logical Framework	# and type of national and regional youth forum participants strengthening understanding among conflict-affected groups	Activity report and participant list	Age, gender, affiliation and location. 35% of women participants	Quarterly	160	163	75	91	75	63	75	78	310	395
6	YEPS Logical Framework	# of national and regional youth forums conducted	Activity report	District/location	Quarterly	4	4	1	1	1	1	1	1	6	7
7	YEPS Logical Framework	# of comic book editions produced and distributed	Hard copy of comic books distribution list	District/location	Quarterly	-	-	-	-	30000	-	30000	24000	30000	24000
8	YEPS Logical Framework	# of new group LGs and RCs initiatives created to resolve diverse types of conflict	Activity report and participant list	District/location	Quarterly	-	-	-	-	26	13	13 RCs	13 RCs	26	26

9	YEPS Logical Framework	# of new groups LGs and RCs members	Activity report and participant list	Age, gender, affiliation and location. 35% of women participants	Quarterly		-			260	105	130	251 RC member (125 M, 126 F)	260	356
10	YEPS Logical Framework	# and type of participants that attend the Common Ground radio techniques training	Activity report and participant list	Age, gender, affiliation and location	Quarterly	35	32	-	-	-	-		-	35	32
11	YEPS Logical Framework	# of Common Ground radio techniques training conducted among conflict affected groups	Activity report, training modules and pre and post tests	None	Quarterly	1	1		-				-	1	1
12	YEPS Logical Framework	# of radio magazines produced and distributed	Hard copy of CD, activity report and distribution list	District/radio station/location	Quarterly				-	24	24		-	24	24
13	YEPS Logical Framework	# of radio magazine broadcast	Broadcasting report and SMS feedback	Community radio station	Quarterly					384	448		-	384	448
14	YEPS Logical Framework	# of radio drama episodes produced and distributed	Activity report, scorecard, hard copy of CD and distribution list	District/community radio station	Quarterly					25	25		-	25	25
15	YEPS Logical Framework	# of radio drama episodes broadcast	Activity report, SMS feedback and radio program broadcasting schedule	Community radio station	Quarterly					400	493		-	400	493

16	YEPS Logical Framework	# and type of participants that attend LGs, RCs, and FGDs	Attendance lists	Age, gender, affiliation and location	Quarterly					260	358	130 (RCs)	251 (RCs)	260	609
17	YEPS Logical Framework	# of LGs, RCs and FGDs Conducted	FGD reports, scorecard	District/location	Quarterly					26	42	13 (RCs)	13 RCs	26	55
18	YEPS Logical Framework	Types of feedback generated during FGDs	FGD reports	None	Quarterly						-		-	-	
19	YEPS Logical Framework	# of stakeholder meetings held	Activity report	Location	Quarterly			2	2	3	7	1	2	6	11
20	YEPS Logical Framework	# of people attending facilitated events geared toward strengthening understanding among conflict-affected groups that were supported with USG assistance	Participant list	Age, gender, affiliation and location	Quarterly					150	417	30	160	180	577
21	YEPS Logical Framework	# of East Timorese youth in targeted communities who have demonstrated the use of non-adversarial approaches and cooperative solutions	Members of the communities and youth view reports during interviews-specific instances will be documented in case studies	Age, gender, affiliation and location and 35% of women participants	End of project					10		20		30	191
22	YEPS Logical Framework	% of youth surveyed in the project locations who are collaborating with social and political structures for common community Projects	Project report and case studies	Age, gender, affiliation and location and 35% of women participants	End of project							25% increase		25% increase	33%

23	YEPS Logical Framework	# of collaborative activities led by young women	Project report and case studies	Age, gender, affiliation and location	End of project									35% increase	3 (27%)
24	YEPS Logical Framework	# of people from 'at-risk groups' reached through USG-supported conflict mitigation activities	Participant list, case study	Age, gender, affiliation and location and 35% of women participants	End of project						25		1 (capacity building) 80 (art classes)	50	106
25	YEPS Logical Framework	Youth mapping conducted in all 13 Districts	Youth mapping database and report	Age, gender and groups	Once	13							-	13	13
26	YEPS Logical Framework	% of youth participants who demonstrate increased knowledge of leadership, democratic principles and conflict transformation	Case study and endline survey	Gender and region wise disaggregated data on youth participants' knowledge of leadership, democratic principles, and conflict transformation	End of project								+30% average increase (2013 CLT monitoring results)	25% increase	+30%
27	YEPS Logical Framework	% of youth surveyed who report of actively participating in election and post-election democratic exercises.	Case study and endline survey	Gender, social identity and region disaggregated data on youth participation in election and post election activities	End of project									25%	21%
28	YEPS Logical Framework	# Of joint initiatives organized by East Timorese youth and national level political decision makers that promote constructive engagement of youth in peace and development process	Project report	Case study	End of project						4	1	1	5	7

29	YEPS Logical Framework	# of USG-assisted facilitated events geared toward strengthening understanding and mitigating conflict between groups	Case study (meeting agendas, attendance lists and report)	District/location	Quarterly						3			6	6
30	YEPS Logical Framework	% of population that listens regularly to the radio magazine and radio drama	Survey	Age, gender, and district (urban and rural) 35% of women participation	Mid-term and endline		-			10% increase	BR 51% (18% regular); KDD 41% (21% regular)	25% increase		25% increase	39%
31	YEPS Logical Framework	# of youth that read comic books for good governance and peace building	Reading club participation lists, activity report	Age, gender, affiliation and location, and 35% of women participants	Quarterly		-		-		-	130	218 in 16 RCs (100 male, 118 female)	130	218
32	YEPS Logical Framework	% of population that shows an increased understanding of issues of importance to youth	Case study	Age, gender, and district (urban and rural)	End of project		-		-		-			25% increase	39%