

FACT SHEET 1

By UNTAET Press Office

April 2002

UNTAET'S 25 MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS

The United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET) was established by the Security Council in October 1999. Here are 25 of the major achievements UNTAET and all its partners have made possible since that time.

- The establishment of **peace and security** in East Timor (Fact Sheets 6 and 17).
- The addressing of humanitarian needs by UNHCR, IOM, WFP and UNICEF, which were all instrumental, together with UNTAET, in ensuring that humanitarian needs were met quickly after the violence of 1999. Over **200,000 refugees**, one-quarter of the population, have since **returned** to East Timor (Fact Sheet 9).
- The holding of **free, fair and completely peaceful elections** on 30 August 2001 that resulted in an 88-member Constituent Assembly that drafted and approved East Timor's first Constitution (Fact Sheet 4).
- The creation of the **Second Transitional Government** and appointment of the fully Timorese **Council of Ministers** (Fact Sheet 3) now running the day-to-day activities of the Government. The Council, appointed on 20 September 2001, replaced the Transitional Cabinet created in July 2000 (which consisted of four East Timorese members and four UNTAET representatives).
- The holding of **free, fair and completely peaceful presidential elections** on 14 April 2002 that resulted in the election of independence leader Xanana Gusmão as East Timor's first president (Fact Sheet 5).
- The establishment of a Timorese-led **national programme of civic education** which **trained over 5,500 community leaders** and directly involved over **100,000 East Timorese**.
- The holding of **200 Constitutional Public Hearings** in June and July 2001 at which 38,000 East Timorese turned out to air their views on what should be considered by the Constituent Assembly when drafting the first Constitution.
- **The registration of 742,461 people**, virtually the entire population currently living in East Timor (excluding the refugees in West Timor), over a three-month period in 2001. This data formed the basis for preparations for the Constituent Assembly and Presidential elections.
- **The normalization of relations with Indonesia** that has resulted in high-level bilateral meetings, and the trilateral talks involving Indonesia and Australia in February and subsequent working level meetings with Indonesian officials on a wide range of issues. **Twelve countries** and the **European Union** have **established Representative Offices in East Timor**.



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- The creation of the **East Timor Defence Force (ETDF)**, with 600 soldiers having been recruited and undergone basic training to form the ETDF's first battalion. A group of 261 young recruits – including 30 women – have now been recruited and after basic training will form the first component of the ETDF's second battalion. (Fact Sheet 16)
- The establishment of the **East Timor Police Service**, with more than 1,697 East Timorese Police Officers having graduated from the Police College in Dili and been deployed in all 13 districts (Fact Sheet 6).
- The establishment of a Civil Service. To date, **approximately 11,000 East Timorese civil servants** have been recruited (Fact Sheet 12).
- The establishment of a functioning **judicial and legal system**, including an East Timorese Prosecutor General's Office and a Defender Service; four District Courts; a Court of Appeals, and prisons in Dili, Baucau and Ermera (Fact Sheet 7).
- The creation of a **Commission on Reception, Truth and Reconciliation** that will seek the truth regarding human rights violations in East Timor within the context of the political conflicts between **25 April 1974 and 25 October 1999**; facilitate **community reconciliation** by dealing with past cases of **lesser crimes**, and ultimately report on its findings and make **recommendations to the government** for further action on reconciliation and the promotion of human rights (Fact Sheet 8).
- The creation of the **first ever functioning Gender Affairs Unit in a Peacekeeping Mission**, which has focused on raising awareness on promoting gender equality in policies and legislation of the East Timor Transitional Administration. Specific gender orientation sessions have also been conducted for the Peacekeeping Force, Civilian Police and East Timor Police Service, on cultural awareness of gender roles and the different impact of conflict and post-conflict reconstruction on the women and men of East Timor. **Twenty-four per cent of Legislative Assembly seats are held by women** – which is the **second highest average in the Asia-Pacific** region.
- The basic rehabilitation of schools throughout the country. More than **700 primary schools, 100 junior secondary schools, 40 pre-schools and 10 technical colleges** are now teaching approximately 240,000 children and older students (Fact Sheet 14).
- The **reconstruction of 32 major public buildings** by the East Timor Transitional Administration. Seven major buildings are currently under reconstruction, two in the capital Dili and five in Baucau, Ermera, Liquiça and Oecussi districts (Fact Sheet 13).
- The initialization of an agreement with Australia on oil and gas reserves, the **Timor Sea Arrangement**; commencing in 2004, this has the potential to provide East Timor with billions in revenue over the following 20 years (Fact Sheet 18).
- The **creation of Radio UNTAET**, whose coverage extends to all of East Timor and some refugee camps in West Timor, and **TVTL**, whose broadcasts are seen in Dili and Baucau with highlights shown at public gatherings in other districts (Fact Sheet 19).



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- **Basic public services** have been put in place in a wide range of areas including health, education and infrastructure. Electricity has been re-established and clear water is being provided in urban areas following the widespread destruction of these facilities in 1999 (Fact Sheets 13, 14 and 15).
- The initiation of a major **road rehabilitation programme**, focusing on the repair and maintenance of a 1,000-kilometer core road network neglected for more than two decades. The **Dili Port** is busy with shipping. The **Dili international airport** was reopened for commercial flights in early 2000. Now under civilian administration, it handles international flights by five carriers.
- The early formation of a **Central Fiscal Authority**, the precursor to the current Ministry of Finance, to ensure that East Timor's limited resources are used effectively and that the country has a stable fiscal framework for a sustainable economy.
- The establishment of a **Banking and Payments Authority** (initially called the Central Payments Office) that functions as the proto-Central Bank. This institution has developed and manages correspondent banking facilities with foreign and central commercial banks, and manages the government payroll.
- The establishment of a **Small Enterprises Project** to help restart viable economic activities in the private sector. This has helped create an entrepreneurial class while generating employment in urban areas.
- The **rehabilitation** of two-thirds of the **arable land**; the **restoration of livestock** by importing and vaccinating cattle and buffalo; and the provision of nets and boats to small fishing enterprises to tap the rich potential of East Timor's waters.

The above developments were achieved with the active assistance of donor countries, World Bank, UN Agencies, NGOs and many other partners.

