



UNMIT marks Haiti earthquake anniversary



» UNMIT Photo/ Martine Perret

On 13 January, UNMIT marked the first anniversary by honouring the victims of the Haiti earthquake. SRSG, Ameerah Haq paid tribute to the dead and injured and those made homeless, and acknowledged the commitment and compassion of all involved in the emergency relief effort. More than 100 staff from the UN system in Timor-Leste attended the ceremony. The earthquake, 7.0 on the Richter scale, devastated Haiti, claiming an estimated 300,000 lives, including 102 UN staff members.

A barefoot dream

“A Barefoot Dream”, a film made by the South Korean director Kim Tae-kyun tells the story of Timor-Leste youth soccer team. The Korean Film Council has submitted the film for nomination in the 2011 Academy Awards for the Best Foreign Language Film Oscar.

The film is about a soccer player from Korea who after repeated efforts to start up businesses in Indonesia,

decides to come to Timor-Leste where he ends up coaching a group of young football players.

Director, Kim Tae-kyun’s 2008 film “Crossing”, was also submitted for Academy Awards consideration.

“A Barefoot Dream”, was chosen by the Korean Film Council from a pool of six films. It is one of the sixty-six films that qualified for the Foreign Language Film category for the 83rd Academy Awards.



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In Memoriam



» Violette Kabatesi

It was with deep sorrow that UNMIT announced the passing away of a dear friend and colleague, Violette Kabatesi 36 from Rwanda, who died in Dili on 10 January. Violette was an Administrative Assistant for the HIV/AIDS unit and also supported the Socio Economics Affairs unit.

She had served with the United Nations for more than ten years in various capacities and in countries that included Timor-Leste, Lebanon and the Netherlands (The Hague). She was reassigned to UNMIT in February 2009.



Safe drinking water in Covalima

Most families in Suai generally drink water drawn directly from wells or filtered water from river and the practice has been passed down through generations. Many local NGOs working in Suai, focus on making people aware of the benefits of safe drinking water and the health hazards related to drinking contaminated water.

Collect rain water and boil it. It is an easy and cheap solution for safe drinking water that can make the difference if we are talking about how to prevent water-related diseases like diarrhoea. The water has three physical characteristics: it is transparent, without flavour and smell. But even if the water looks clear, it can still be contaminated because the harmful organisms are not visible to the naked eye. The only solution to reduce the possibility of getting a disease related to contaminated water is to drink boiled or purified water.

Candida Rika, a housewife, from suku

Suai-Loro in Suai knows that boiling water is the cheapest and best way to have safe drinking water at home. She has one well in front of her house built by her husband. She always boils water before drinking.

To have safe drinking water, Father Violanto Soares, a Jesuit priest, collects rainwater and then boils it to ensure that all germs are killed. He collects rainwater by way of a simple mechanism that makes use of the zinc roof, pipes and a water tank. He explained that though the initial cost for fixing pipes and storage tank is a little high, the system pays dividends during times of water shortage. Jesuit community has been collecting rainwater since 2003.



» UNMIT Photo/ Larissa Almeida

Civil society advocates for a gender responsive budget



» UNMIT Photo/ Bernardino Soares

Timor-Leste's thriving civil society is lobbying the Government to ensure that all future budgets are gender responsive. The National Parliament is currently discussing the 2011 State Budget.

As part of the civil society Gender Responsive Budget (GRB) advocacy strategy, representatives from NGOs such as Rede Feto and Fokupers are monitoring the parliamentary discussions and debates. Every opportunity is taken to lobby Members of Parliament in order to encourage them to speak up for women's empowerment related initiatives.

The advocacy aims to make policymakers more accountable and increase opportunities for women to access services. The key focus for GRB activities this year is to increase the State budget and expenditure dedicated to implementing the Law against Domestic Violence including enhancing and expanding shelters, services and other facilities.

NGO advocacy is crucial in ensuring that programme budgets reflect the unique needs of women and girls for increased gender equity and accelerated development. Gender responsive budgeting is an essential tool to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) – particularly MDG 1 (reducing poverty), MDG 3 (women's empowerment) and MDG 5 (maternal health).

PHOTO GALLERY

Timor-Leste's Strategic Development Plan

Timor-Leste's Strategic Development Plan (SDP) 2011-2030 envisages a democratic and prosperous society with adequate food, shelter and clothing, and a sustainable environment. Agriculture, education and health are the top three priorities -- key components for poverty reduction and major elements of the Millennium Development Goals. Annual action plans within the overall SDP framework will drive the process forward.



» UNMIT Photo/ Martine Perret

Using radio to promote disability rights



» UNMIT Photo/ Martine Perret

Katilosa, a local NGO that works for the disabled, launches a radio programme on the rights of

persons with disabilities in February this year. UNMIT Human Rights and Transitional Justice Section is supporting the initiative.

National radio station RTL (91.7 MHz) will broadcast the weekly half hour programme. The first episode will feature stories of young people with disabilities talking about their lives in Timor-Leste. Rehabilitation workers, families of disabled persons and other stakeholders will participate in discussions on disability.

The programme aims to reduce the stigma experienced by persons with disabilities and inspire change to improve the way persons with disabilities are treated in Timor-Leste.



Listen to Futuru Nabilan

UNMIT's regular radio programme every Saturday at 5:30pm and Sunday at 6:00pm on RTL and 15 community radios

Watch ba pás

UNMIT's regular TV programme every two weeks on Monday at 7:30pm on TVTL

Read Lia-Naroman

UNMIT regular Nesletters

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