

MCC and Timor-Leste: Partnering to Improve Immunization; Fight Corruption

Timor-Leste's three-year, nearly \$10.5-million Millennium Challenge Corporation's threshold program is designed to improve the country's performance in the policy areas measured by MCC's Control of Corruption and Immunization Rates indicators. The program will work to reduce corruption by building a network of functioning and effective anti-corruption institutions and actors through strengthening capacity, increasing coordination, and improving processes and procedures to deter and detect instances of corruption. It will also improve access to immunization services by creating a more capable and effective community health system in Timor-Leste through strengthening the local community health units, improving immunization management and vaccine-preventable disease surveillance capacity, strengthening service delivery, and increasing the number of qualified health service providers.

Program Overview

Component 1 - Strengthen Anti-Corruption Efforts

Independent for only eight years, Timor-Leste is developing the institutions and mechanisms that will play a role in curbing corruption.

Component 1 of the program is designed to tackle corruption through an integrated approach that will engage key institutions and actors to build a comprehensive system to prevent, detect, and sanction the misuse of government funds. Timor-Leste's institutions and other actors will include the newly-established Anti-Corruption Commission, the Prosecutor General, a planned external audit authority, a planned independent procurement commission, parliament, and non-governmental organizations, media, the private sector, and academics.

Component 2 – Improve Access to Immunization Services

Immunization coverage in Timor-Leste is among the lowest in Southeast Asia. This is in part because access to over 20 percent of the country's villages remains difficult. There is also a shortage of qualified field staff, and the management of vaccines and continual surveillance are insufficient.

Component 2 of the program is designed to create a more capable and effective community health system in Timor-Leste by strengthening local community health units, improving immunization management and vaccine-preventable disease surveillance capacity, strengthening service delivery, and increasing the number of qualified health service providers. To maximize the impact of the program during its three-year time frame, the program will target six districts where large numbers of unimmunized children are not covered by other donor projects

Implementation

The United States Agency for International Development will manage the program and be responsible for coordination, contracting, and financial management. MCC will maintain oversight of the program.