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# ADVANCING TIMOR-LESTE'S AUTONOMOUS TELECOMMUNICATIONS LANDSCAPE (ATLATL)

Advancing Timor-Leste's Autonomous Telecommunications Landscape (ATLATL) is working to promote business-friendly policy and investment in the information communication technology sector.

Timor-Leste is one of the very few countries in the world not connected to the internet via fiber optic cable. As such, internet speeds are typically 25 times slower than other Asian and Pacific countries, and costs are considerably higher due to dependence on satellite connections. Only 25 percent of Timorese use the internet regularly, compared to 46 percent for other Asian and Pacific countries. Policy development in the Information Communication Technology (ICT) sector is lacking, which limits private sector investment needed to increase internet speeds and improve products and services available in Timor-Leste.

## SUMMARY

Advancing Timor-Leste's Autonomous Telecommunications Landscape (ATLATL) is a three-year, \$3-million activity funded by USAID. Timor-Leste's significant natural resources and strategic location in the Indo-Pacific region, combined with an unregulated ICT sector, increases potential for exploitation and cyber-attacks by external or internal forces. The underdeveloped ICT sector also

represents a key binding constraint on economic growth opportunities and future investments. The ATLATL activity works towards achieving two objectives: 1) convene sector stakeholders to inform national policies and regulations for the ICT sector while transferring the skills and knowledge for the government of Timor-Leste to adopt and implement critical policies and regulations; and 2) engage the private sector in a manner that will catalyze private sector investment to improve essential infrastructure, products, and services and to help foster inclusive economic growth within an improved enabling environment.

## PROJECT DETAILS

- **Location:** Timor-Leste
- **Duration:** October 2019 – June 2021
- **Key Counterparts:** Office of Technology, Information and Communication (TIC), Prime Minister’s Office, Ministry of Transport; Private Sector ISP and ICT service providers
- **Partner Contact:** DAI Global, LLC
- **USAID Contact:** David Howlett, email: [usaid-timor-lestes-info@usaid.gov](mailto:usaid-timor-lestes-info@usaid.gov)

## ACTIVITY OBJECTIVES

- Multi-stakeholder platforms through which ICT sector stakeholders may evaluate sector constraints and develop options for resolution are supported
- Knowledge, skills and abilities of TIC to review and prioritize ICT policy and regulatory reforms needed is strengthened
- Knowledge, skills and abilities of TIC to evaluate input from ICT sector stakeholders, consider within the needs and priorities of the Government of Timor-Leste, and advance to adoption and implementation policy, legal and regulatory reforms with an increased likelihood of voluntary compliance is built
- Private investment in the ICT sector, including products, services, and infrastructure, is expanded

**USAID OVERVIEW:** The United States Government, through USAID, works in partnership with the government of Timor-Leste to support broad-based and effective development. Since 2001, USAID has provided about \$350 million in development assistance to Timor-Leste. USAID supports Timor-Leste in its efforts to build a more prosperous, healthy and democratic country through programs that foster inclusive and sustainable economic growth, especially in the agriculture and tourism sectors; improve the health of the Timorese people, particularly women and children; and strengthen the foundations of good governance – all areas that are highlighted in Timor-Leste’s Strategic Development Plan 2013-2030 and will serve to make the country more self-reliant in the future.

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