The Community Development Unit (CDU) was established immediately following the completion of the Dili CUS project in October 2005. The CDU is located in the Ministry of Public Works and staffed by people trained by the Dili CUS project. The CDU team, for example, has facilitated Water Department permission and assistance in design of improvements to community’s CAP and community contracting processes. The most successful of the four pilots, it was an instrumental in identifying priorities, designing projects and organizing work teams. The community has now water in 200 metres of all houses through two water tanks. The community has now water in 200 metres of all houses through two water tanks.

For disadvantaged, low-income dwelling units, “community contracting” by the residents themselves on a transparent commercial basis, alongside some unpaid labour and financial contributions, no matter how modest, encourages a culture of cost recovery ownership and partnership, and promotes responsible housing requiring incremental upgrading and maintenance.

Community participation
Living in Sao Jose is not easy as there is almost no infrastructure available. Water is a major concern whereby the community must walk many kilometers per day to fill up their water containers from government provided water tanks. This situation causes some arguments with communities in the area as supply is often limited.

After the Independence of Timor-Leste in 1999, Francisco believes his life suddenly became very tough when his dream of a better life and services failed to become a reality, worse still he lost his job due to the down turn in the country.

After many failed attempts at gaining an office job, Francisco has decided to continue his studies at a local university and is hoping that a better qualification could help him to get a better job.

Francisco was a major contributor to making this community’s CAP and community contracting processes the most successful of the four pilots. He was an instrumental in identifying priorities, designing projects and organizing work teams. His community now has water in 200 metres of all houses through two water tanks. He has now water within 30 meters of his house.

The pilot projects in four communities provided assistance to over 3,000 persons with four local communities in urban Dili. By following this CAP process the CDU team, for example, has facilitated Water Department permission and assistance in design of improvements to community’s CAP and community contracting processes. The most successful of the four pilots, it was an instrumental in identifying priorities, designing projects and organizing work teams. The community has now water in 200 metres of all houses through two water tanks. He has now water within 30 meters of his house.