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Australian Government

Regional Assessment Centre Concept

NOVEMBER 2010

Key aspects of a Regional Protection Framework

There is great inconsistency throughout the region in the way asylum seekers are treated. Many risk their lives and the lives of their families by using the services of people smugglers to facilitate movement. In many respects, people smugglers are deciding who gets access to long term protection and where it is provided.

A Regional Protection Framework (RPF) involves the development of a comprehensive approach to the management of irregular migration through cooperation between origin, destination and transit countries, as well as relevant international organisations. One key aspect of a RPF is the establishment of a Regional Assessment Centre (RAC).

Role of the Regional Assessment Centre

The establishment of a RAC is a central component of the RPF, which seeks to enhance the region's ability to respond to irregular migration and improve consistency in the treatment of refugees.

The RAC would contribute to establishing fair and orderly processes for assessing refugee claims, resettling those in need of protection and returning those who do not require protection, in a manner consistent with the Refugees Convention.

Operation and Management of the Regional Assessment Centre

The RAC would operate as a world's best-practice model and ensure that individuals at the centre are treated with dignity, respect and fairness. It would uphold fundamental human rights. Australia would work closely with Timor-Leste and consult with the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) to establish the centre.

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It is anticipated that the centre would operate as a partnership between Australia, Timor-Leste government agencies, donor countries, private sector service providers and international organisations. Australia considers that the best model for the effective operation of the RAC would involve strong governance arrangements. One option could be that the centre be overseen by a Governance Board made up from representatives from the above mentioned groups.

A Service Provider could be engaged to provide services including transport, facility management and support, catering, cleaning, translating and interpreting and security. A specialist Health Services Provider could be sourced to manage the delivery of health services to asylum seekers and others.

Asylum seekers could have access to legal services and counselling support, information and communication technologies, education programs and activities to support independent living, and religious activities and practitioners.

Asylum seekers residing at the centre would exercise a degree of autonomy over their daily routine, thus distinguishing this form of accommodation from that of a detention environment.

Further detail is outlined at:

Attachment A – Construction of a Regional Assessment Centre

Attachment B – Operation and management of a Regional Assessment Centre

Attachment C – Governance

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Assessment of protection claims at the Regional Assessment Centre

The centre could be developed on a best-practice model that would seek to apply the UNHCR's Refugee Status Determination (RSD) processes and procedures.

Subject to agreement with the UNHCR, assessment of claims might involve extensive use of UNHCR protection officers or other officers who are well-trained in the application and interpretation of the Refugees Convention. Details of the process will need to be developed in the light of the legislative requirements of Timor-Leste and the capacity and availability of appropriately trained officers to provide assistance.

Case managers could also be engaged to assist applicants with special needs as well as work with protection officers to determine the ideal durable solution for refugees, and to manage the return of failed asylum seekers. At the same time, asylum seekers accommodated at the centre would be obligated to comply with all processes and arrangements at the centre, and work with case officers to assist in the determination of their case.

Further detail is outlined at:

Attachment D – Assessment of Protection Claims

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Resettlement options for refugees and options for returning those not to be owed protection – Durable solutions

Australia is committed to ensuring that the RAC and the broader RPF offer genuine durable solutions to refugees including resettlement options and return pathways for those not found to be refugees.

By offering direct resettlement placements through renewed international commitments generated through the broad RPF, the RAC could deliver a guaranteed outcome for refugees. This will ensure that Timor-Leste is not left with the burden of caring for the refugees from the RAC.

Australia also recognises the importance of failed asylum seekers being returned to their country of origin but being treated humanely in the process. Reintegration packages could be developed to provide goods and services to assist individuals found not to be refugees to return to their home country and reintegrate into the community.

Arrangements will need to be negotiated under the RPF for the involuntary return of individuals not in need of protection should they not choose voluntary repatriation.

Further detail is outlined at:
Attachment E – Durable Solutions

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Benefits for Timor-Leste in hosting a Regional Assessment Centre

In addition to the opportunity for Timor-Leste to act as a regional leader in the field of human rights, there is a range of other potential benefits for Timor-Leste.

It is anticipated that the RAC would create opportunities for local employment and present opportunities to increase skills in the Timorese labour force in fields such as construction, facility management and security services.

The development of 'community infrastructure' such as water, electricity, roads, medical and education facilities will also provide benefits for Timor-Leste and assist the Timorese Government to achieve some of its key milestones outlined in its National Strategic Development Plan (NSPD). The RAC will also include the establishment of facilities for staff at the centre, and may also encompass opportunities for use by local members of the Timorese community.

Further detail is outlined at:

Attachment F – Potential capacity building opportunities

Attachment A

Construction of a Regional Assessment Centre

1. Geographic Location: The geographic location of a centre in Timor-Leste will significantly affect the operational effectiveness of any RAC.
2. As there is currently no existing purpose built structure in Timor-Leste that could serve as a RAC, it is accepted that this would be a new construction. As such, the selected site would ideally be located in close proximity to an established international airport and shipping port to allow for the centre's construction and effective operation.
3. Construction of a purpose built facility: There are a number of options regarding the size and scale of any RAC. One option could be to construct a purpose built centre to accommodate up to 1000 individuals. To do this, one 600 bed compound to cater for single adult males and one 400 bed compound for use by family groups and minors could be constructed. Alternative options could be used to provide a surge capacity for an additional 1000 individuals.
4. It is anticipated that a facility for 1000 individuals would require approximately 200 staff, all of whom would require accommodation. If the centre was to grow beyond 1000 asylum seekers, additional staff and staff accommodation would be required.
5. Another option could be to construct a purpose built centre to accommodate 2000 individuals. To do this, two 600 bed compounds to cater for single adult males and two 400 bed compounds for use by family groups and minors could be constructed. Alternative options could be used to provide a surge capacity for up to 4000 individuals.
6. Before construction could commence on any facility, a site feasibility study would need to be undertaken. It is anticipated this would take at least a month to complete.
7. Next, the site design would need to be completed and the selection of a construction contractor and major suppliers. These processes could be undertaken concurrently and would take a number of months to complete.

8. Ideally, construction would be 'phased' allowing asylum seekers to move into the facility as the various compounds are completed.
9. After the preparation work outlined above is completed, an initial group of approximately 200 single adult males could possibly be accommodated at the RAC as soon as 12 months after the site was selected with the overall compound for 600 single adult males being completed 6 months after this. It would take approximately another 6 months to complete the compound for the 400 bed compound for family groups and minors, completing the construction of the facility for 1000 people, in approximately 2 years after site selection.
10. These timeframes are estimates based on construction work currently being undertaken by the Australian Government at the Curtin Immigration Detention Centre in Western Australia and the Christmas Island detention facility.
11. Description of Facilities: It is anticipated the facility would comprise a variety of demountable structures. These would be purpose built and would serve the purposes of: accommodation for asylum seekers and staff, on-site education and medical facilities, facilities management rooms such as administration and interview blocks, a kitchen and appropriate storage space for supplies (both perishable and non-perishable). Further demountables would be used for recreational and religious observation purposes.
12. The facility would also require equipment to ensure it could operate effectively such as sources of energy and water, transport vehicles, ablution blocks, fencing and other essential furniture, fittings and supplies. Where essential equipment and supplies relating to the operation of the RAC can not be sourced in the local Timorese marketplace, these items will need to be imported. It is expected that these essential items would not be subject to Timorese import taxes or duties.

Attachment B

Operations and management of a Regional Assessment Centre

13. The establishment of a Regional Assessment Centre (RAC) will pose significant capacity, infrastructure, governance and logistical issues.
14. Services and Service Providers: Essential services that need to be considered to manage the day-to-day operation of a RAC include:
- Transport and escort services;
 - Facilities management and support services such as:
 - i. Catering;
 - ii. Cleaning;
 - iii. Asset maintenance;
 - iv. Translating and interpreting;
 - v. Environmental and emergency management; and
 - vi. Security services.
15. Similar to best practice immigration facilities in other parts of the world, a variety of service providers would need to be sourced to provide those services. All service providers will be required to comply with all applicable Laws and regulations for Occupational Health and Safety.
16. One option could be to engage an international organisation to coordinate delivery of the services. Subject to satisfactory negotiation and agreement, IOM could fulfil this role. Another option could be to engage the services of a commercial contractor to provide the day-to-day services. Engaging an international organization would have significant benefits in promoting the overall concept of the Regional Protection Framework (RPF).
17. It is anticipated that there will be employment opportunities for the local Timorese population in a variety of service provider roles. For staff that need to be sourced external to Timor-Leste, it would be expected that Timor would facilitate access to appropriate visas.
18. Transport and Escort Services: The service provider will need to deliver flexible and responsive transport and escort services for people residing at the RAC. In delivering these services the provider will need to ensure

people residing at the RAC and their property are moved discreetly, safely, efficiently and securely.

19. Transport and escort services primarily consist of two types of activities – local transport and escort and international transfer and escort.

20. Local Transport and Escort Services: Local transport and escort services encompasses the provision of transport and escorts for asylum seekers and their property within Timor-Leste. Some examples include:

- Transferring asylum seekers from the airport to the RAC;
- Transferring asylum seekers to local appointments, such as specialist medical or asylum claim related; and
- Transferring asylum seekers to off-site programs and activities.

21. International Transfer and Escort Services: International transfer and escort services encompass the provision of escorts for people accommodated at the RAC and their property on board an international flight either to or from the RAC. Some examples include:

- Transferring asylum seekers from an international location to the RAC for assessment of their claims for asylum; or
- Transferring asylum seekers from the RAC to an international airport in preparation for resettlement or removal.

22. To deliver transport and escort services, the service provider will need dedicated vehicles, drivers and escorts to meet the demand at the RAC.

23. Health Services: For the delivery of health services at the centre, one option could be to source the services of an experienced international health service provider to develop, implement and manage arrangements that deliver of general health services to the RAC and its staff.

24. The health services provider should be capable of:

- Fostering cooperative, coordinated and professional working relationships with the RAC executive committee, other health care providers (both domestically and internationally) and other RAC service providers;
- Respecting and giving effect to the competing values of medical impartiality,

- Clinical autonomy and collaborative service delivery; and
- Ensuring the coordinated and continuous delivery of health care to asylum seekers and staff at the RAC and where appropriate, members of the Timorese population.

25. Facilities Management and Support Services: Facilities management and support services should include the provision of quality amenities and the promotion of a healthy and safe environment. Such services could include for example catering, the promotion of independent living, cleaning, asset maintenance, access to translating and interpreting services, environmental management, emergency management and security services. These services will be delivered in a manner that treats asylum seekers with dignity and respect.

26. The provider of these services should manage the planning and delivery of the support services to provide the RAC with a functional, safe, hygienic and aesthetic centre environment.

27. The service provider should manage the facilities cooperatively with the RAC executive committee and all service provider personnel will be required to behave in a professional, cooperative and accountable manner.

28. Catering: In the delivery of catering services, the service provider should be responsive to the cultural needs of the asylum seekers accommodated at the RAC. Catering services will include:

- menu development in consultation with a dietician and the health services provider to ensure that any specific dietary and religious needs are catered for;
- purchasing of food supplies and other consumables required for the catering services, where possible sourcing these supplies locally to support the Timorese economy;
- obtaining, storing, preparing and serving food and beverages in accordance with all applicable laws and practices;
- cleaning of catering areas and equipment; and
- management of kitchen waste disposed in accordance with all applicable laws and practices.

29. Promote independent living: To effectively house a large population of asylum seekers from diverse backgrounds, the RAC could have a form of 'house rules'. To minimise the risk of institutionalisation, these rules will be flexible and promote the concept of 'independent living' where ever possible. Other measures the service providers will take to future proof against this risk and further promote the 'non detention environment' of the RAC include:

- The development, management and delivery of structured and unstructured programs and activities designed to provide educational and recreational opportunities, and provision of meaningful activities that will enhance the mental health and well-being of individuals residing at the RAC. Additionally the service provider will develop strategies to encourage asylum seekers to participate in programs and activities, noting that participation is voluntary and ensuring programs and activities cater for the diverse needs of asylum seekers.
- In addition to the catering service outlined earlier, the service provider will manage designated self-catering areas. In managing these areas, the service provider will ensure:
 - i. self-catering areas and equipment are clean and hygienic at all times;
 - ii. equipment in self-catering areas is safe and fit-for-use; and
 - iii. all food and beverages are stored correctly for safe consumption.
 - iv. Facilitate access for asylum seekers to get to a variety of local shops and services e.g. hair dressing.

30. Cleaning: The service provider will be responsible for all routine and non-routine cleaning of the RAC to ensure the safety, hygiene and well-being of asylum seekers and all other people at the RAC. The service provider must conduct all cleaning services in accordance with relevant Occupational Health and Safety Legislation and any applicable cleaning industry standards.

31. Asset Management: The service provider will need to ensure the value of the RAC and its loose assets are maintained and the facilities and associated services are managed to allow the RAC to fulfil its primary purpose.
32. Translating and Interpreting: The service provider should ensure that an appropriately qualified interpreter is used for all formal communication with asylum seekers accommodated at the RAC.
33. Additionally, interpreters will be required for people to communicate with the Timorese population in Portuguese and Tetum, the national languages of Timor-Leste. To assist with day-to-day communication, basic language training could be offered to interested asylum seekers, staff and local Timorese. Initiatives such as this contribute to breaking down language barriers and can lead to a more cohesive living and working environment.
34. Due to the nature of claims being assessed at the RAC, it will be imperative that an appropriate level of translating and interpreting services reflective of the RAC population are available. It is unlikely there will be sufficient appropriately qualified interpreters within the local Timorese population. One option could be to engage the services of interpreters internationally while building Timor-Leste's capacity. Another option could be to source the services of a reliable telephone interpreting service.
35. Environmental and Emergency Management: The service provider will be required to develop and implement an Environmental Management System (EMS) for the RAC to manage energy consumption, the use of natural resources, waste disposal, and vermin and pest control. The EMS will comply with all applicable laws and practices.
36. It is understood that in Timor-Leste, even with generators and desalination plants, energy and clean water will continue to be a valuable resource. Recognising this, the service provider will be required to implement any reasonable and cost-effective measures to minimise energy and water use in the RAC, including:
- identifying and correcting any wasteful operation or practices;

- conducting routine maintenance of systems to achieve peak operational efficiency;
- promoting the responsible use of energy, natural resources and water to people residing at the RAC and other RAC personnel;
- complying with water restrictions or other water saving measures at the RAC as notified by the RAC executive committee (in accordance with all applicable Laws and regulations); and
- advising the RAC executive committee on energy and water consumption, and activities implemented to reduce the consumption of energy and water.

37. The service provider must comply with all applicable laws and regulations for the control and management of emergencies to ensure the RAC is a safe and secure environment for people to live and work in.

38. Security Services: The security and safety of the Timorese population is of paramount importance. The RAC should also provide a safe and secure environment for people who reside and work there. The service provider is to employ the minimum, reasonable security restrictions necessary to preserve the safety and security of the centre. These restrictions will not impede on the open 'non detention' style of the centre and the free movement of the people who reside there, noting that in some circumstances some form of segregation and restraint for particular persons may be required. All security arrangements are to meet human rights obligations.

Attachment C

Governance

39. Regional Assessment Centre Executive: The success of the service delivery at the RAC will be reliant on a close partnership and responsibility between key stakeholders.
40. It is expected that representatives from Australia, Timor-Leste, international humanitarian organisations, service providers and future partners will be involved in the management and service delivery of a RAC. One option to ensure all participants are afforded an opportunity to put forward their views and take an active role in the centre could be to establish a governance board in the way of a Centre Executive.
41. The Centre Executive could consist of representatives from each organisation involved in the day-to-day operations and assessing of asylum claims at the centre. The executive could take the form of a management committee and have overall responsibility for centre level objectives and service delivery issues.
42. Issues relating to ensuring the proper welfare and well-being of asylum seekers at the centre would be a significant focus of these committees, as well as staff's adherence to the centre's Code of Conduct.
43. Regional Protection Framework Governance: The operation of the RAC Centre Executive would support the broader policy direction of any RPF governance arrangements.

Attachment D

Assessment of asylum seeker claims at the centre

44. The RAC will implement consistent and effective Refugee Status Determination processes under the auspices of the RPF. It will assist to confirm the mandate of the UNHCR in relation to those persons needing protection. With the support of an overarching RPF, an RAC will also assist to recognise and apply fundamental human rights principles negotiated under the framework.
45. One option, which would assist with securing the support and services of the UNHCR could be to adopt the UNHCR's Refugee Status Determination Handbook and procedures as the model to be applied in the registration, assessment and recognition of status of refugees under the RPF.
46. In developing consistent processing in the region and at the RAC, Australia considers that key international organisations such as the UNHCR and IOM may require assistance to physically expand their operations.
47. Initial identity and registration processes undertaken in the region:
Consistent with the underlying tenets of an RPF, all asylum seekers in any country that is part of the RPF should undergo a mandatory registration process involving an initial interview positive confirmation of identity. This could require the collection of biometric information.
48. This process would also collect information about the asylum seeker's family, movements they have undertaken in the region and information about their protection claims. This information could then form the basis of an initial assessment that would attempt to verify the identity of the asylum seeker and their family members.
49. Under the RPF, once an assessment was made that an asylum seeker required a determination of their protection claims and their identity has been confirmed, a participating country could request transfer of the person to the RAC. International organisations involved in the RPF and participating countries would work together with Timor-Leste to transfer asylum seekers to the centre.

50. Refugee Status Determination process at the centre: Successful operations at a RAC would require the recruitment of staff skilled in refugee status determination procedures and processes to ensure the quality and integrity of the determination. One option may be, subject to the UNHCR's agreement to participate in the RAC, to expand UNHCR's capacity to undertake determination processes at the RAC. Another option could be for countries that undertake RSD processes, such as Australia, to assist in the determination process at the centre while building Timor-Leste's capacity to undertake these processes.
51. This would provide both Timor-Leste and the region with reassurance that the RAC's processes and procedures would be delivered with integrity and that those in need of protection will ultimately be provided with it.
52. Merits review of failed asylum claims: In mirroring the UNHCR's current assessment process, and consistent with the *UN Refugees Convention*, Timor-Leste would need to establish a review process that would allow failed asylum seekers to request a review of their protection claims. Should the RAC adopt a UNHCR-based structure, an RSD supervisor could conduct a formal review of a protection officer's negative decision as an appropriate senior official who could undertake an independent reconsideration of the claims.
53. Review mechanisms will need to be consistent with Timor-Leste's legislation.

Attachment E

Durable solutions

54. Negotiation of additional resettlement places: In the lead-up to establishing the RAC, Timor-Leste could play a lead role in pursuing increased diplomatic efforts to attract new resettlement opportunities in the region for refugees from the region. With its history and unique position in the region, Timor-Leste could bring a new perspective in promoting humanitarian solutions for refugees.
55. Opportunities could also be explored with non-signatory countries such as first-asylum and transit countries that may be in a position to offer effective protection to refugees.
56. Based on a resettlement pilot it operated in Burkina Faso and Benin, the UNHCR has outlined a number of aspects which should be factored into the establishment of a resettlement program in developing countries and regard should be had to these aspects.
57. In the interim, a preferred option may be to advocate for the establishment of small emergency transit centres (based on a 'virtual centre' model). These could offer short-term accommodation of up to 6 months in safe locations until refugees could be permanently resettled to a safe third country. This mechanism would assist the RAC to work more efficiently by ensuring refugees are safely housed in alternative accommodation while new asylum seekers could be accommodated at the RAC.
58. Resettlement placements: A consistent, fair and humane approach to allocating resettlement places for refugees could be to develop a 'best-fit' model. A 'best-fit' model will ensure that consideration is given to balancing issues such as the refugee's personal circumstances and needs, the nature of integration opportunities offered as part of the resettlement placement and any family or economic links to a particular resettlement country. Subject to their agreement to participate, one option could be for UNHCR to undertake this process.

59. Critical to the successful integration of refugees in their country of resettlement will be the delivery of pre-settlement services directly from the RAC. Services could include cultural classes, language skills and employment training delivered by contractors and with the involvement of the relevant foreign government representatives from the proposed resettlement country.
60. A consequential benefit arising from this option for Timor-Leste could be that such services could be adapted and delivered to local Timorese communities to develop and support local economies located near a RAC.
61. Allocation of UNHCR Refugee Certificate and organising travel to the resettlement country: Once confirmation has been received of the refugee's suitability for resettlement and acceptance of a resettlement offer, arrangements could be made for issuing a travel document and the designation of a lawful status to the refugee. The Australian Government could offer the Timor-Leste Government assistance to strengthen its bilateral relationships with resettlement countries to ensure that necessary visa permits and travel documents are issued prior to the refugee's departure.
62. Lawful expulsion of failed asylum seekers and legal review of expulsion decision: It is our understanding that Timor-Leste's *Immigration and Asylum Act 2003* allows for expulsion proceedings to be initiated against foreigners for reasons such as entering and remaining illegally in the national territory.
63. We understand that it is likely that if an asylum seeker (holding the status of a 'foreigner' under Timor-Leste's legislation) is not found to be owed protection, they would become subject to expulsion proceedings on the basis of remaining illegally in Timor-Leste's national territory.
64. It is our understanding that current Timorese legislative provisions require that, prior to carrying out a final decision to deport a foreigner; the deportation decision itself should be issued in line with due process requirements. In particular, once a notice of expulsion order has been

issued, a foreigner can initiate proceedings including a right to appeal to the Court of Appeal.

65. Returns of failed asylum seekers from the RAC: To maximise the effectiveness of the RPF, arrangements will need to be put in place for asylum seekers who choose to bypass the arrangements put in place for the assessment of their claims or if failed asylum seekers continue to remain in the country where they are processed. There will need to be capacity for Timor-Leste to return failed asylum seekers to their country of origin.
66. As a country with extensive experience in this field, Australia could assist Timor-Leste to build its capacity to develop a returns program directly from the RAC. In doing so, Timor-Leste could also derive direct benefit from such a program as it would enable it to address and consider more generally the return of undesirable migrants residing in Timor-Leste.
67. Assistance could be offered in the form of secondment arrangements between Timor-Leste and Australia coupled with 'hands-on' assistance to build experience among Timorese officials in undertaking returns. Australia could also assist with negotiation of any necessary return agreements with source countries.
68. As an advocate of human rights, Timor-Leste could establish a returns program whereby returns would only be undertaken where the failed asylum seeker could return to their country of origin safely and the return itself would not expose them to a violation of their fundamental human rights.
69. Through regional discussions, international support could also be secured to increase levels of assistance that could be used to create reintegration packages for failed asylum seekers. Such packages could include a suite of goods and services up to a certain monetary value which could be used to arrange actual return as well as assist the failed asylum seeker and their family reintegrate back into their community and commence earning a sustainable living.

70. An alternative approach to addressing the potential burden of asylum seekers coming to Timor-Leste could be to negotiate transfer agreements between transit countries across the region under the auspices of an RPF. As an example, if an asylum seeker arrived at Timor-Leste through travelling irregularly, as opposed to being transferred it may be that they would be transferred back to a country of transit where they could have and should have sought asylum.
71. Australia and Timor-Leste could lead regional discussions to negotiate agreements among numerous transit countries and which could allow for a 'swap' to take place. For example, an agreement may state that for every asylum seeker requiring processing at the RAC, the country currently housing that asylum seeker must, in turn, allow for the readmission of failed asylum seekers from the RAC into their territory. It would then become the responsibility of that country to ensure that the failed asylum seeker is returned in a safe manner, in accordance with acceptable human rights standards and under the auspices of the negotiated terms of the framework.

Attachment F

Potential benefits to Timor-Leste and capacity building opportunities

72. Benefits for the host country: In addition to the opportunity for Timor-Leste to act as a regional leader in the field of human rights, there are a range of other benefits for Timor-Leste.
73. Community Services: Capacity for 'community services' such as water, sewage treatment, electricity, telecommunications, education and medical services and local law enforcement agencies will need to be enhanced.
74. Any infrastructure capacity expansion beyond the immediate needs of the RAC could offer benefits to the local Timorese population.
75. Transport Infrastructure: Appropriate transport infrastructure such as ports and roads will be required for the transportation of large amounts of building materials during the construction of the RAC.
76. The movement of people to and from the centre may pose a strain for local airports. This may require some capacity building. Additionally, international airports will need to offer appropriate facilities for holding persons prior to a removal.
77. Some infrastructure associated with the establishment of a RAC could contribute to the Timorese Government achieving some of its key milestones outlined in their National Strategic Development Plan (NSPD).
78. Local availability of goods and services: Timor-Leste's community and business sector may not be sufficiently developed or agile to respond adequately to the centre and associated staff needs. For example, the sourcing of medical supplies, food etc. may pose an impossible burden on the current local supply. As such, initially, a reliable international supplier would need to be sourced.
79. One option to address this could be that the Australian Government encourages the development of the local market by pursuing a micro financing scheme to empower local Timorese to create their own businesses. Such a scheme would benefit both the Timorese population and the RAC by creating local suppliers of consumables and services.

80. The UNHCR has valuable partnerships with the Grameen Trust (who deliver micro-credit programs in countries in which UNHCR is present) and the International Labour Organization (ILO) which may be able to provide assistance with the implementation of such a scheme.
81. Development of skills: We anticipate that the RAC would create a number of jobs and present opportunities to increase skills in the Timorese labour market.
82. Domestic Legislation – Timor-Leste: The operation of the RAC would need to comply with all relevant domestic Timorese legislation and any of Timor's international obligations. Where domestic legislation needs to be created or modified, Australia would provide assistance.