On August 5-6, the MCC-Gender-Inclusion Social Team (GSI) and MCA-TL conducted a series of meetings with representatives from the Government, Civil Society Organizations, and Development Partners, including Alola Foundation, BTL, EP, the General Director of SEII, the Project Management Unit at the Ministry of Public Works, UN Women, and Rede Feto Timor-Leste. The purpose of these meetings was to gain a deeper understanding of partner programs, as well as to exchange experiences related to gender-based violence, human trafficking, and Women Economic empowerment. These discussions were led by the MCC-GSI Director/WEE-TALENT Project, Mrs. Monica Tejada, the Director of GSI-MCA-TL, Mrs. Signi Verdial, and the GSI/SBC MCA-TL Specialist, Mr. Aniceto Neves.

ALOLA RECEIVED A VISIT FROM MCC DELEGATION TO CHANGE SOCIAL BEHAVIOR AND GENDER SOCIAL INCLUSION.

On Friday (August 2) last week, the Executive Director of the Alola Foundation, Mrs. Maria Guterres, accompanied by the program advocacy team, received a visit from the MCC Social Behavior Change (SBC) and Gender Social Inclusion (GSI) delegation. The main purpose of the visit was to find out more about the Alola program, especially in relation to GBV, human trafficking and women's development.

For one hour, the MCC Social Behavior Change (SBC) and Gender Social Inclusion (GSI) delegation led by the GSI Director/WEE-TALENT Project, Mrs. Monica Tejada, accompanied by the Director of GSI-MCA-TL, Mrs. Signi Verdial and the GSI/SBC MCA-TL Specialist, Mr. Aniceto Neves, listened to an in-depth presentation about a little of the Alola program. After that, they also received an in-depth explanation from the Advocacy program manager, Mrs. Maria Evelina about the projects that Alola is running to prevent violence against women, whether in the school or community environment.

Executive Director of the Alola Foundation, Mrs. Maria Guterres, thanked the MCC Delegation for visiting Alola to share thoughts and have in-depth discussions regarding the programs implemented by both parties in their contribution to Timor-Leste's development.

"I am grateful to the MCC team for visiting and sharing their views with us, especially regarding Social Behavior Change and Gender Social Inclusion, and this meeting will strengthen relationships in order to accelerate change for the lives of women and children," said Mrs. Maria Guterres, Executive Director Alola Foundation.

In July 2022, Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) and the Government of Timor-Leste signed a compact to address the human capital binding constraints to economic growth through projects investing in water and sanitation and education.

Implementation of the $420 million MCC agreement as well as an additional $64 million contribution from the Government of Timor-Leste over a five-year period will have a transformative impact on improving the health and education of the people of Timor-Leste.

As a civil society organization working on women's and children's issues, the Alola Foundation is ready to collaborate with MCC to achieve Timor-Leste's goals, improving and changing people's lives.

On 29-31 July 2024, the MCC Social Behavior Change (SBC) and Gender Social Inclusion (GSI) delegation visited the Municipalities of Ainaro and Manufahi to observe the Water UNICEF and Water Aid SBC-Sanitation Project. The delegation included the SBC-WSD Director, Alison Montgomery; Gender & Social Inclusion-Women’s Economic Empowerment (WEE) TALENT Project, Monica Tejada, and GSI/SBC Specialist of MCA-TL, Dr. Aniceto Neves.

On August 1, 2024, the delegation continued its activities in Dili. They also had a meeting with the Executive Director of the MCA-TL, Ambassador Constancio da Conceicao Pinto, and the MCC Resident Coordinator Timor-Leste, Justine Hufford, and Sarah Jones. The meeting was also attended by the GSI Director of of MCA-TL, Sra. Signi Verdial, who officially started her position at MCA-TL on August 1, 2024. During the meeting Ambassador Constancio Pinto congratulated Sra. Signi Verdial for her new role as Director of GSI-MCA-TL.

Info MCA-TL!

On July 24-26, 2024, the Social Behavior Change (SBC) team of MCA-TL/MCC held discussions with Civil Society Organizations and Development Partners, including representatives from Water Aid and UNICEF. Furthermore, the team visited Bidau and Palapasu Dili to oversee the implementation of sanitation infrastructure in the area. This initiative was overseen by Director of Gender and Social Inclusion, Sra. Alison Montgomerya and MCA-GSI/SBC Specialist Dr. Aniceto Neves. The team is scheduled to continue similar meetings with key partners in Dili, Manatuto, Aileu, and Liquica next week.

Info MCA-TL!

MCA-TL through the Education/TALENT Project and the Director General of Higher Education - the Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Culture (As a Board member), Maria Filomena Lay Guterres and the team met with the MCC-Vice President of the Operations Sector, Mdm. Caterina S. Ntep. The objective of the meeting was to update the progress of the preparation for the implementation of the Education/TALENT Project.

Info MCA-TL!

MCA-TL through the Education / TALENT Project and MCA Procurement Agent Team conducted negotiations on the "Training and Institutional Support Contract" competition for the design and implementation of the TALENT Project. The negotiation meeting was also joined by the representative of the Ministry of Education, General Director of Secondary Education and Technical Vocational, Dr. Deolindo da Cruz. The negotiations process will terminate on July 25, 2024.

Info MCA-TLI

On July 23, 2024, the Executive Director of MCA-TL, Ambassador Constancio da Conceicao Pinto and the team continued to hold meetings with the delegation of MCC from Washington. In addition, Ambassador Pinto and Deputy Vice President of the Operations Sector, Mdm. Katerina S. Ntep along with Managing Director of Infrastructure, Environment and Private Sector (IEPS), Mdm. Amanda Jeaning and team conducted a site visit to observe internal installation of MCA Permanent Office located at 3rd & 4th floor, Dili Central Mall CBD10, Timor Plaza, Dili, Timor-Leste. MCA-TL planned to move to the permanent office in August 2024. On the other hand the delegation also conducted site visit in Becora, Hera and Metinaro to observe the potential Land for the future construction of the Center of Excellence for Education/TALENT Project.

Info MCA-TL!