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The World Bank's land of kiosks: Community driven development in Timor-Leste

Ben Moxham

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Abstract

The World Bank's Community Empowerment and Local Governance Project (CEP) was the key donor programme to assist with community reconstruction in a newly independent Timor-Leste. The CEP provided funds to support the reconstruction of their communities, their core infrastructure, and their social services. The CEP reduced poverty and improved living standards by providing the communities with the capital and resources needed to develop their communities. The CEP's results were mixed, with some communities showing improved living standards, while others showed no improvement. The CEP's impact was limited by a number of factors, including the lack of a deeply

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Notes

1. A nationwide consultation for Timor-Leste's National Development Plan organised over 1000 forums covering more than 38,000 Timorese citizens. They produced a 20-year national vision for the country, identifying education, health, and employment as the top priorities.
2. Ben Fine argues forcefully that such concepts have been used by the Bretton Woods institutions to enable their brand of economics to 'colonise the social sciences' (Fine [2002](#):18–33; see also Harriss [2002](#)).

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