



Company Profile

Delivering solutions-oriented
research and analysis to tackle
complex problems





Introduction

Bridging Peoples began in Timor-Leste in 2014 with a simple idea: could the principles of good community engagement be applied to large-scale aid and development programs in a manner that truly works?

The answer was yes.

Since then, we have grown to a thriving research & consulting agency with offices in Singapore, Timor-Leste and Australia. Today, we partner with government, civil society, and commercial clients to go beyond research findings – translating community insights into strategic direction that builds on local strengths and needs.

Our Approach

Combining local knowledge with technical expertise

At Bridging Peoples, we take a data-driven approach that starts with deeply understanding the local context.

We then connect contextual insights with technical expertise, helping clients develop innovative, evidence-based solutions that build on local strengths and real community needs.

What sets us apart?

Our diverse experience across civil society, government, and the private sector gives us deep connections across all aspects of Timorese society.

Whether you need research, strategic guidance, or community engagement support, we're here to help—bridging knowledge and action to create lasting impact.



Our Values

EVIDENCE-BASED

We combine local knowledge with technical expertise to help organisations tackle complex challenges with research-driven solutions.

CONTEXT-SPECIFIC

We identify the local conditions and unique contextual factors that organisations must meet, to make their programs a success on the ground.

SOLIDARITY

We work with communities, not just for them. Our approach is rooted in partnership and mutual respect, ensuring solutions align with real local needs.

SOCIAL INCLUSION

We champion community-led change to tackle social inequalities, supporting marginalised groups in driving community transformation from within.

Core Sectors

SOCIO-CULTURAL

- Local governance analysis
- Qualitative & quantitative research
- Community engagement training & support

ECONOMIC

- Local economic analysis
- Support for farmers groups & cooperatives
- Blue-Green business support

ENVIRONMENTAL

- Climate change & DRR research and strategy
- Social & environmental assessments
- Blue-Green business transition

Services

RESEARCH & MEL

- Quantitative & qualitative research
- Needs assessments
- Impact & outcome evaluations
- MEL systems development and support
- Third party monitoring & validation

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- Policy & program development
- Community engagement training & support
- Community-led research
- Participatory MEL

CSR

- Strategic support: CSR frameworks & reporting
- Community engagement for improved social licence
- Needs assessments & MEL

BLUE & GREEN BUSINESS

- Social & environmental assessments
- Blue & green investment advice & forecasting
- Blue & green business coaching (C2C)
- Support for community groups & cooperatives

Company Structure

Agile yet Rigorous

Our core research team, supported by a diverse network of technical experts, ensures consistently high research standards while allowing us to adapt and tailor solutions to each client's unique needs.

Executive Director

Operations
Coordinator

Research
Coordinator

Research Team

Social &
Humanitarian
Experts

Economists &
Business
Analysts

Environmental
Consultants &
Engineers

Our Team



Deborah Cummins, PhD
Executive Director



**Anggri Safira Pires da
Silva**
Operations Coordinator



Christina Benevides
Research Coordinator



**Policarpo de Sa
Benevides**
Researcher



Rosita S Oqui
Researcher



Calisto de Andrade
Researcher

Our Team



Jose Mendis Nono
Researcher



Samuel Benevides
Researcher



Ermelinda Sequira Rocha
Researcher



Judite Soares
Researcher



Herminia V. Niha
Researcher



Angelina Quebo
Researcher

Our Team



Adriana Pinto
Researcher



Mieckhel Lobo Campos
Researcher



Aquino Dias
Researcher



Isabel Ximenes
Researcher



Antonio Cono Nono
Researcher



Franginho Alves Pereira
Researcher

Clients & Partners



OXFAM



THE WORLD BANK





“ IWDA has worked with Bridging Peoples on a number of occasions. It was a pleasure working with them. They were very professional and delivered timely, high quality work.

They were warm and consultative, building good relationships with IWDA and our partners within a short time period. They bring an excellent level of analysis, particularly in contextualizing the findings and recommendations for the local context. ”

Georgia Ride

Program Manager

“ UNFPA has contracted with Bridging Peoples on several pieces of research. We greatly appreciated the team’s approach, which resulted in high quality pieces of research with insightful findings and useful recommendations.

Deborah and her team’s professionalism, deep understanding of the cultural context, strategic approach and strong analytical skills yielded a powerful result that will be useful for years to come. ”

John M. Pile

Country Representative – Timor-Leste



“ We have contracted with Bridging Peoples on a number of occasions to provide technical support to our project’s local governance activities. Deborah’s intimate understanding of the context in Timor-Leste combined with her excellent technical knowledge are a winning combination. She has been able to apply these to support us with strategic planning, legislative analysis from a community perspective, and to facilitate participatory workshops to successfully engage local partners to explore and define their own perspectives on how to achieve inclusive local governance. ”

Carolyn Tanner

Chief of Party, Mai Munisipiu Project

“ We have contracted with Bridging Peoples on multiple occasions to support our community engagement and program development work. The team were flexible to an environment of changing needs, and worked with discretion, cultural sensitivity, and a process to ensure people appreciated being heard.

The reports and recommendations were of high quality and relevance, while also being accessible and easy to read. We plan to work further with Bridging Peoples! ”

Kathy Richards

Regional Director – Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam

Adam Smith International



“ The TOMAK program engaged Bridging Peoples to conduct gendered marketplace assessments of marketplaces in Timor-Leste.

Able led by Deborah Cummins, Bridging Peoples brought a depth of experience, developing a robust methodology to thoughtfully capture the voices, experiences and aspirations of women marketplace vendors. We greatly appreciated the ease of communication and collaborative spirit of the team, and the results are something we can all be proud of.

”

Inga Mepham

Gender & Women’s Empowerment Specialist
(TOMAK Program)

“ We were delighted to partner with Bridging Peoples on the development of our Corruption Training Manual which is now being used as a key activity for CEPAD.

The Bridging Peoples team provided a depth of methodological experience and great ideas, creating a collaborative and engaging atmosphere from the beginning. The assistance provided remains an invaluable resource and we truly appreciated all that the team contributed to this very successful project.

”

João Boavida

Executive Director



Connect With Us!

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