



Alola produces packs for survivors of violence

Fundasaun Alola is now producing packs for women who seek support from the Police Vulnerable People's Unit (VPU), Fokupers, or Pradet, organisations that provide support and treatment for women who have been subjected to domestic or sexual violence. Alola is producing seven packs per month to meet the demand. The packs include clothing, nightwear, underwear, toiletries, sarongs, sandals etc as most of the women arrive seeking support with nothing.

The bags are made by the Alola Sewing workshop and the contents are purchased locally, supporting the local economy. Alola funds the packs through its own fundraising efforts as it is such an important and necessary service.



Staff from Fundasaun Alola present the first support packs to staff from Fokupers who run a safe house for women

Alola and JSMP go to the Districts together

Fundasaun Alola is working with the Justice System Monitoring Program to provide training to women's groups across all 13 districts about the judicial system in Timor-Leste. Last year when Alola provided training in Gender Awareness and domestic violence with Oxfam and Pradet, women asked for more information about the justice system as they were confused about the difference between civil and criminal cases. Women would often remain silent because they did not understand that divorce is a civil law issue but domestic or sexual violence is a crime.

Police are under-resourced and often cannot adequately respond to these cases. So when women understand the law and can discriminate between civil and criminal cases, police can focus their energies where they are most needed. Through these sessions and through the training last year, women have started to speak out and raise concerns about incidents of domestic violence in their communities. A number of women have since been referred to Pradet or Fokupers for support. Both these agencies work with women survivors of domestic and sexual violence.



Haburas Labarik Alola and care staff meet with mothers in the districts to discuss child rights

Who is Fundasaun Alola? Alola was founded in 2002 dedicated to empowering women through improved health, education, leadership and employment opportunities. Leadership Team: CEO: Anne Finch. Program Managers: MCH - Veronica Correia & Tanya Wells-Brown; Advocacy - Alita Verdial; Education: Nivio Magalhaes; Economic Development: Bernardete da Fonseca; Office Manager—Marina Braz da Costa.



Judicial training in Manatuto includes members of the police force

Haburas Labarik Child Rights evaluates progress

Care International and Alola are working together to promote child rights, focusing on Alola's mother support groups, school programs, and through our District Support Workers and theatre groups. The program also includes a small grants program made available to local groups to run child rights and child protection workshops in their communities. Local theatre groups will explore child rights through a more creative medium. Care's Lafaek magazine and radio show are also a popular tool to promote child rights across TL as well.

Funded through the European Commission, Care International and Alola have worked together to promote child rights since 2006. The team recently embarked upon a midterm evaluation process to assess the impact of their programs. With smiles on their faces, the four Evaluation Teams headed out to the four corners of East Timor. From Lospalos, to Suai, and on to the Island of Atauro and the enclave of Oecusse, the teams traveled and met with those involved in our joint projects.

Fighting sickness of various origins (head-heart-stomach-muscles-tooth-feet), dealing with broken cars, no-phone-signal areas, and long walks to get to remote areas, the team forged on. They supported mothers who couldn't read and write to participate. They multitasked, playing with children while the mothers were engaged in group interviews. Lafaek magazine, Care's Child Rights magazine for children, is popular with people of all ages. We saw a mother encourage her children to read Lafaek to her because she couldn't read it itself. We saw others rushing off to join their neighbors to listen to the Radio Lafaek program together.

There were plenty of joyous moments as the teams traveled the country, learning the Lafaek song on the 2-hour walk; bringing food and drinks for the primary school children; and seeing the "unexplored" remote places of Bikele, Maquili, Oesilo on Atauro. Plus all the twists and turns, some were perpendicular curves on a hilltop, with amazing views. (Written with Care staff.)

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Message from the Chairperson

Welcome to the June edition of the Fundasaun Alola newsletter. In this edition we focus on our work in the districts. You can read about the opening of the first of five kindergartens restored on Atauro Island and about our creative new literacy and resource education programs. Read also about our new partnership with the University of New South Wales to carry out research into health seeking behaviours across TL, about our District Judicial training sessions with JSMP and lots more.

I'd also like to take this chance to congratulate the Economic Empowerment team for a great event in the Alola Shop on **International Fair Trade Day**. Read inside to find out more about the new revitalised shop.

Kirsty



Students enjoy a more creative approach to learning in Osa Huna

Students from the friendship schools program enjoy new education activities

Despite difficulties faced by bad roads washed away in the wet season or affected by heavy fog, the Alola education team remained determined to visit schools in the far reaches of Baucau and Lospalos to work with students of our Friendship schools. The Alola Education team visited primary and secondary schools in Vila Nova, Laga, Satilos past Baguia, and two schools in Lospalos during one of its many field trips.

The project provides creative materials like paint, paper and books that encourage students to learn about the joy of reading, writing and good communication in creative and fun ways. The main focus is to model teaching techniques with local teachers in the schools to promote literacy. The students have a chance to learn through playing games and creative activities such as art and drama to encourage them to enjoy learning and to want to attend school. When the team provide such training, materials and equipment to the students, the participants are very keen to learn and enjoy the visit from the team.



Bikeli kinder, Atauro Island, about to open its doors

Alola opens first of five kindergartens on Atauro Island

The community from Bikeli, the Atauro Administrator and visitors from Alola, Care and ConocoPhillips gathered on Atauro Island for the inauguration ceremony on 29 May 2008. Alola's Preschool Project Coordinator Beti Goreti Ut has responsibility for the restoration and building projects. The members of the community said they were very happy with Alola's support to restore the kinders and to provide inservice training for all the kindergarten teachers on Atauro.

The Alola Foundation is working with a local NGO, Roman Luan, to repair and rebuild five kindergartens on Atauro Island to help promote early childhood education. Previously the kindergartens were supported by the local NGO Roman Luan, but they did not have the resources to maintain and develop the facilities. *Cont. Page 2.*

Alola's Beti Goreti Ut coordinated the restoration of all five kindergartens



New Education Programs go to the Districts

From page 1:

Alola opens first of five kindergartens on Atauro

Alola is working with Roman Luan and the community to renovate and build new kindergartens. When the kindergartens are finished, Alola also provides inservice training for the teachers to improve the quality of the learning experience and to promote creative developmental play.

After this we plan to renovate the volleyball court for teenagers and to promote other active sports, youth activities and to develop local talent. The community are very proud of the project and are looking forward to re-establishing the kindergarten classes. The community highlighted the importance of early childhood development to prepare their children for primary school.

Señora Natalia, the kindergarten teacher at the Makeli kinder, said that everyone was very happy with the assistance from Alola to renovate the schools. 'The process of renovation has been clear and straight forward and we look forward to new children's resources and training for the teachers to increase the quality of learning in the school.'

The project has been supported through funds from Nelson Bay Rotary, NSW and StratReal in England, which the Friends of Alola UK facilitated.



The community works together in Makeli, Atauro with the completed kindergarten below



Left: Ema de Sousa, Teaching and Learning Coordinator, demonstrates kindergarten activities. **Right:** Atauro Kindergarten Teachers participate in inservice training at the Manutasi Kindergarten. **Above right:** Alola CEO, Anne Finch, and Care Haburas Labarik Coordinator, Sean Corrigan, inspect the new kinder in Manutasi.



Important new Health Research Partnership with University of New South Wales



The team in training before they head out into the field

The University of New South Wales (UNSW) is conducting a Health Care Seeking Behaviour Study (HCSBS) for the Timor-Leste Ministry of Health, funded through AUSAID. The study aims to strengthen the health system through a better understanding of how communities prefer to seek health care and health promotion. A second objective is to help build sustained capacity for health and development research in Timor-Leste.

The Alola Foundation successfully won the competitive tender to work together with UNSW to conduct the qualitative research for the study. The research team is lead by Senior Researcher, Veronica Correia, seconded from her duties as Maternal and Child Health Program Manager. Avelina da Costa, MCH researcher has also been seconded to work as a researcher on the study alongside three other fieldworkers. The team will conduct focus group discussions in 10 districts of Timor-Leste as well as in-depth interviews with service providers and recipients in three districts. Data collection will begin at the end of June. A trainer team comprising, Veronica Correia, Tanya Wells-Brown and Diana Glazebrook, is currently providing training in conducting interviews and writing interview notes. Conducted over a three month period, it will be crucial in identifying some of the barriers to health service uptake, particularly in the area of maternal and child health.

International Fair Trade Day

Fundasaun Alola celebrated International Fair Trade Day with a clearance sale and new stock items at the new look Alola Shop. It was also the first week the Alola Shop operated as Alola Esperanza. The event attracted both local and international customers from all across the globe who came out to support Fair Trade in Timor-Leste, making it the most successful day of trading for the Alola Shop since it opened its doors in 2005. When the shop becomes profitable all income will be invested into other Alola programs to support and encourage the empowerment and economic independence of the women of Timor Leste.

The day showcased live weaving demonstrations by one of Alola's many textile producer groups. Two women from the Metinaro Internally Displaced Persons project showcased their palm weaving skills; skills they have gained since the start of the project.

The Alola Shop is the only officially registered fair trade business in Timor Leste, specialising in the marketing, preservation and sales of traditional and high quality Tais textiles. This rich cultural traditional craft is practiced by hundreds of women from all over the country who have been gaining an income from their sales to the Alola shop since 2005.

The shop also sells its own designer product line as well as other locally made Timorese products such as soaps, salt, recycled hand made paper products, coconut oil, Timorese coffee and wood carvings made by a collective of young wood carvers from the neighboring island of Atauro.

Alola also works closely with women textile producer groups to strengthen their capacity to generate sustainable livelihoods through the sale and preservation of high quality traditional textiles and products, through a process that follows and maintains international fair trade principles. Alola's Economic Development program provides the women with training in business, marketing and quality control. Alola also employs and provides on-going professional development training to a permanent staff of over a dozen women in their sewing centre.



The women manufacture a special merchandise line of designer products using both traditional and contemporary tais designs to supply stock for the Alola Shop, export, special orders and maternity packs provided to hospitals through the Maternal Health women's programs.