



Fundasaun Alola

2016

ANNUAL REPORT



FUNDASAUN ALOLA

"Strong Women Strong Nation- Feto Forte Nasaun Forte"

WOMEN OF TIMOR-LESTE HAVE EQUAL STATUS IN ALL ASPECT OF LIFE

(Access, participation, role in decision making, enjoyment of benefits) THROUGH EDUCATION, ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT HEALTH AND COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

MISSION:

To Promote Women's Rights And Increase Women's Leadership Capacity, Improve Health Status Of Women And Children, Increase Access & Quality Of Education For Women And Children, Strengthen Women's Small Enterprise At The Grassroots Level.

Equality	Justice	Participation	Respect	
Advocacy	Maternal & Child Health	Education	Economic Empowerment	Management
Promote Women's Human Rights	Improve Women's And Children Health Status	Improve Quality And Access To Education	Strengthen Women's Economic Participation	Effective and efficient management & HR system
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Campaign for women's human rights;• Strengthen women's leadership;• Strengthen networks with all partners;• Empower women in all areas in municipalities;• Assist women to access information and understand their rights;	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reduction of IMR, MMR, MMBR and Under 5 child malnutrition rate;• Promotion of exclusive breastfeeding and complementary feeding (through community-based groups at the village level);• Empower community-based groups to support maternal and child health at the village level;• Support MOH to implement Nutrition Program and MCH Program;• Program collaboration with international and government partners at national and district level;	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Promote the importance of education with whole community involvement;• Provide training to improve teachers' teaching ability;• Resource development in Tetun and Portuguese and using local resources;• Work collaboratively with MOE and other education organizations to develop holistic education program;• Expand Education opportunities;	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Improve the status of women in enterprise;• Increase income generating opportunities;• Promote economic independence for women;	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Establish responsive system from program management and evaluation;• Ensure transparency and accountability in financial management;• Ensure quality facilities' management and process;• Maintain endowment funds for future programs;• Performance appraisals annually and follow up on staff professional development;• Strong HR systems;• Continue to promote family friendly workspace;

Chairwoman's Statement

Dra. Kirsty Sword Gusmão, AO

Dear Friends and Supporters of Fundasaun Alola,

It is with tremendous pride and pleasure that I share this annual report for the year 2016. I am sure that you will agree as you browse its pages that Fundasaun Alola continues to contribute significantly to the empowerment, health, education and well-being of Timor-Leste women and their families. I am particularly proud of the leadership exercised by the CEO and program managers at the national level in the spheres of women's political participation, maternal and child health and efforts to address human trafficking. Alola continues to be looked to by government and international development partners to provide advice and inputs on national legal frameworks, policies and programs that affect women. This is due to the strong leadership, grass-roots approaches to bringing about positive change and robust management and governance structures put in place.

Fundasaun Alola's Board comprises women and men with vast and relevant experience across a number of sectors, all providing invaluable advice and support to me and Alola's CEO, Ms Alzira Reis. Whilst their areas of expertise and professional experience are diverse, they are united in sharing Alola's vision of a Timor-Leste which values women and girls and embraces their full and equal participation in all spheres of life. I take this opportunity to thank them all for their contributions to Alola's work this year.

The Progress of the World's Women 2015-2016 Report highlights the fact that close to 86% of women in Timor-Leste face major barriers to accessing health services, with women from poorer and rural households especially likely to experience difficulties. These statistics only reinforce the vital importance of Alola's grassroots maternal and child health work at the village level.

From the time I established Fundasaun Alola in 2001, it has always been one of my and the organisation's goals to work gradually towards having our work



recognised by the government of Timor-Leste and for our services and grassroots approaches to delivery integrated into the government's own programs. This year we have achieved this goal in the health sector with the Ministry of Health's (MoH) adoption and nationalisation of Alola's ten-year old Mother Support Group (MSG) model, an initiative which educates and empowers women to make improvements to their own, their family's and their community's health through promotion of exclusive breastfeeding, good infant feeding and safe birthing practices, family planning and immunisation. *Parabéns* (congratulations) to the hard-working and committed Maternal and Child Health team for achieving this great milestone.

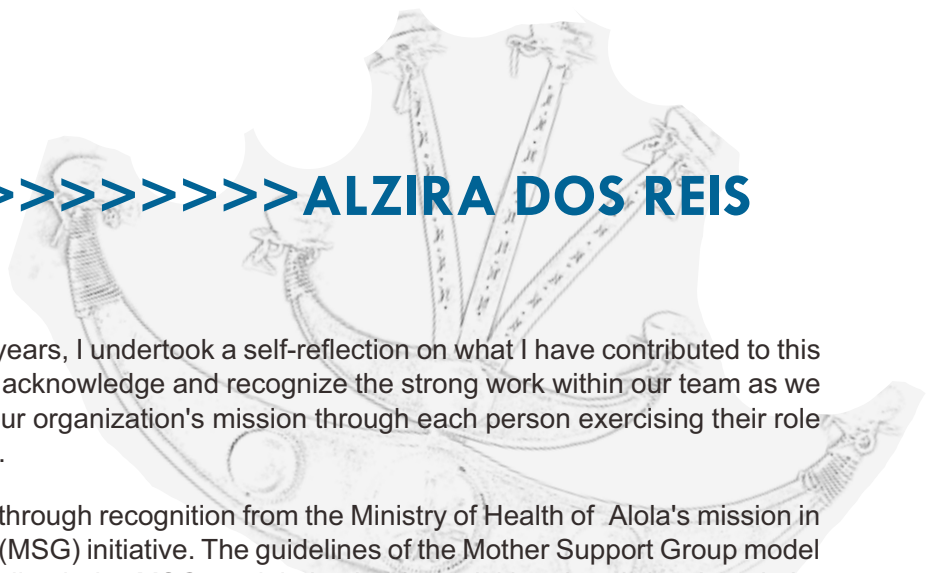
With the support of our many friends in the local and international community, 2017 will see Alola achieve many more milestones and successes in our important work to give the women of Timor-Leste a voice, the skills and good health they require to contribute to the life of their country.

Thank you for your friendship and solidarity.
Feto forte, nasaun forte!



Kirsty Sword Gusmão
Chair





>>>>>>>>> ALZIRA DOS REIS

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(MSG) initiative. The guidelines of the Mother Support Group model



After working as CEO almost for four years, I undertook a self-reflection on what I have contributed to this organization's mission as the CEO. I acknowledge and recognize the strong work within our team as we hold our hands together to uphold our organization's mission through each person exercising their role with responsibility and commitment.

This year we marked a step ahead through recognition from the Ministry of Health of Alola's mission in realizing the Mother Support Group (MSG) initiative. The guidelines of the Mother Support Group model were standardized and then nationalized, the MSG model having been initiated and developed by Fundasaun Alola over the last 10 years. At the same time, we graduated 10 Mother Support Groups in Liquiça and Manatuto municipalities, following on by introducing an integrated approach including economic empowerment, small scale agriculture and educational training in relevant nutritional matters.

In the area of advocacy for women's rights during 2016, the Fundasaun Alola, as coordinator of the Combating Human Trafficking Working Group, conducted advocacy through the submission of a statement on the draft law of human trafficking and holding several meetings with the Ministry of Justice, Parliament and President to consider these submissions. The Human Trafficking Law was subsequently promulgated by the President of the Republic Timor-Leste in January 2017. Apart from this, the Fundasaun Alola has greatly contributed to increasing the number of women in village councils. From the 55 candidates that were supported and mentored by Alola, 21% were elected as heads of villages.

I am pleased to report that our support to the education area to improve the quality of and access to education through scholarships, our mobile library and teacher training continues to show a positive impact in the teachers, children and young women students who were our targets. To exercise the mission of the organization to strengthen pre-school education and with support from the Government of New Zealand through UNICEF, the Fundasaun Alola has established an effective Community Alternative Pre-school Program with 64 in Ermera and 59 in Viqueque municipalities in partnership with Kolega Da Paz (KDP) and Institutu Matadalan Integradu (IMI). From the children referred from the alternative pre-schools, 48% in Viqueque and 52% in Ermera have continued their study to primary school.

To strengthen women's economy and preserve the culture of Timor-Leste, we worked closely with weaving producer groups to support their futures together in the area of handicraft development, supporting access to markets and twice through annual fairs. On the other hand, with support from the Ministry of Social Solidarity (MSS), we provided training on gender based violence and micro credit for four women's groups in Aileu (Aiserimou), Ainaro, Manufahi villa (Fatuberliu-Claco) and Lautem (Fuiluro) with 98 members.

An interesting opportunity for me came about through members of civil society having confidence in me to coordinate the Organizing Committee for the ASEAN People Forum (ACSC/APF) which took place in Dili in August 2016. The forum strengthened the partnership between civil society organizations in the Asian region and continues to gain solidarity for advocacy about maritime boundaries and the membership of Timor-Leste in ASEAN.

The existence of the Fundasaun Alola for 16 years has contributed effectively to the well-being of women and children in Timor-Leste. Our age is the same as a young girls and we are indebted to the various support we receive from our donors, partners and the entire Board - my gratitude for this.

Humbly, I would like to present the 2016 annual report to donors, partners, Board, Managers, all employees of the Fundasaun Alola and the Alola Foundation's friends in South Korea, Australia and Norway who have supported us directly and indirectly during the period.

Thanks for your support and friendship.



Alzira Reis
CEO of Fundasaun Alola



MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH PROGRAM



In the context of encouraging national and international interest in improving the health and nutritional status of women and children in Timor-Leste, the Alola Foundation is proud about its particular contribution to improving maternal and child health.

Infant mortality rates are still unacceptably high with 45 children out of every 1,000 live births failing to celebrate their first birthday. More mothers need to receive pre and post-partum care (57% in urban areas; 24% in districts). The burden of ill health still rests disproportionately on women and children living in rural areas, with 61 deaths per 1,000 live births in rural areas compared to 42 deaths per 1,000 live births in urban areas. Malnourishment remains extremely high with 27% of women estimated to be malnourished; 45% of children under 5 underweight; and, 58% of children under 5 identified with stunted growth.

Based on the understanding that community participation and empowerment is critical to addressing these challenges, the Maternal and Child Health (MCH) program utilizes a range of strategies directed at multiple levels: nationally and within districts; within health facilities including hospitals, community health centre and local health posts and, within the broader community.

This report provides an overview of our major achievements in 2016.



SUPPORTING NEW BORN CARE: PROMOTING BREASTFEEDING

Research informs us the babies will have the best chance of health if they are breastfed solely for the first six months. In 2010, only 52% of babies were exclusively breastfed (Demographic Health Survey/DHS). In 2013 there was a promising increase to 62.3% and we expect that more recent surveys will show even better results.

Our program aims to support breastfeeding and minimize related problems that might deter women from continuing to feed their babies. Hospital Liaison Officers (HLO) are employed through the Dili National Hospital and three referral hospitals in Oecusse, Baucau and Maubisse. They have the important roles of supporting the initiation of breastfeeding, problem solving

with mothers as well as providing early intervention for premature and underweight babies by educating mothers on cup feeding using breast milk as well as Kangaroo Mother Care (a skin contact approach).

Members of the Mother Support Group (MSG) / Suco Hadomi Inan no Oan (The village loves mothers and children / SHIO) program also provide counseling to women in their communities on 6-months exclusive breastfeeding. Mothers reported that for exclusive breastfeeding to be a possibility, they require ongoing support from their families, husbands and neighbors.

INCREASING ACCESS TO SAFE BIRTHING: MATERNITY PACKS INITIATIVE

During 2016, Fundasaun Alola continued its Maternity Pack project providing clothing for newborn babies and other necessary materials for the mother. We have seen that providing mothers with fundamental necessities is a worthwhile investment to increase birthing in health care settings. A total of 1365 packs were distributed this year, with 390 mothers receiving packs at referral hospitals, 580 through Community Health Centers and 395 through health posts in Oecusse, Liquica, Aileu and Ainaro.

Maternity Pack Beneficiaries

TOTAL	1,365
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SAFE BIRTHING: BIRTH PREPAREDNESS PLANNING

The broad aim of the birth preparedness project is to support pregnant women to develop a birth plan, access professional childbirth care and gather the support of their community in organizing transport when labour begins.

This year the MCH program continued to strengthen its birth preparedness plan project in 18 villages in Oecusse. From a total of 1,455 deliveries between June and December, 710 (49%) took place at home assisted by health workers; 396 (27%) deliveries occurred at a health facility (300 at CHC/HPs and 96 at Oecusse

Hospital referred by the BPP Coordinators); and, 349 deliveries (24%) were at home assisted by a TBA. Home births can be because mothers live far from the health facility. Some health posts are still being rehabilitated or have limited space. Pleasingly, 8 health posts not previously accessed for birthing are now being used. The project has clearly influenced mothers to use their health facility for safe birthing. Referral by BPP coordinators has increased to 645 from last year's achievement of 399 (HP/CHC/Hospital - 272; SBA - 373).

MOTHERS WITH MOTHERS: EXPANDING MSG/SHIO GROUPS INTO NEW VILLAGES

This year, the MCH team expanded MSG/SHIO groups into 54 new villages in Ainaro (21), Aileu (1), Dili (26) and Oecusse region (6). Groups were established through the steps of program socialization at municipal and local levels and holding Participatory Problem Analyze (PPA) training on Infant and Young Child Feeding and Basic Safe Motherhood for members.

During the year, an additional 158 SHIO and MSG groups continued to support safe motherhood across sucos. Outcomes have included counseling provided through health posts and SISCas in 7 municipalities; community discussion forums held at village level in 7 municipalities with 4,885 people participating; World Breastfeeding Week celebrated in 75 villages in 5 municipalities; Complementary Feeding cooking demonstrations held using local food with 4,044 mothers and care givers with their children attending; breastfeeding and safe motherhood films attended by



1,126 community members in 5 municipalities; referral of 352 pregnant women in remote areas to give birth at health facilities; and, 1,950 malnourished children and 1,150 malnourished mothers referred to health facilities.

During this year, 10 SHIO groups from Manatuto (10 groups) and Liquica (3 groups) recommended that they wanted to 'graduate' and to develop skills in home gardening and running a small business. These groups showed high levels of performance in contributing to the improvement of the health of mothers and children in their villages. Working in collaboration with our Economic Empowerment Program, 10 members from each group were provided with training. 329 communities members including leaders, health workers and donor representatives attended the graduation ceremony. Alola was pleased to recognize the achievement of the groups with a small grant to support the development of their economic activities.

RAISING AWARENESS OF NUTRITION FOR COMMUNITY LEADERS



To increase the knowledge of community leaders on nutrition, workshops were held in 49 villages in two municipalities, Dili and Oecusse. Conducted in the suco offices, 890 participants attended with representation from women's groups, the church, suco council, xefe suco and aldeia, sub district administrator and youth. The team explained about the importance of nutrition for pregnant and lactating women and children, the signs of malnutrition and

how to use assessment tools provided by World Food Programme (WFP). The team also encouraged the community and leaders to pay attention to the high number of cases of malnourishment found in the villages. The session went very well, with most of the leaders being very supportive of the program and understanding the benefits for the health of children and women.

DEVELOPING NATIONAL GUIDELINES FOR THE MSG PROGRAM

During the year, Alola had the opportunity to expand the reach of its renowned MSG program, ensuring it could be sustained and replicated. In March a consultant was selected through a competitive process to develop guidelines and a set of training modules for the MSG model. These were to be presented to the Ministry of Health and stakeholders and finally approved as a



national guideline. The project was completed in June. National MSG Guidelines and training modules as well as Job Aids were produced through consultation with UNICEF, departments from MoH (including MCH, Health Promotion, Nutrition, PHC and Environmental Health departments) to gain their input. The training module was presented in draft format to INS for their review and input before receiving final approval. The Guidelines are now accepted as the national standard.

TRAINING ON PIGSI

Following the approval of the MSG documents, training was held on “PIGSI” -“*Pakote Integradu Grupu Suporta Inan*” (Mother Support Group Training Package). Taking place at INS over 3 days, the training was organized through the MoH-Nutrition Department in collaboration with INS. 21 health workers from 6 municipalities (Dili, Ainaro, Bobonaro, Covalima, Ermera and Oecusse) participated in the first phase of the training following ToR developed by UNICEF with Alola and approved by MoH. Participants included suco doctors, Primary Health Care coordinators, midwives / nurses and DPHO Nutritionists. With recommendations from participants, the training was revised and, as a result, the original 13 sessions downsized to 10.

Following the signing of an agreement between Alola and INS, a second phase of PIGSI training proceeded. Sixteen trainers from Oecusse, Covalima, Ermera and Ainaro facilitated the ToT which was held in August at

INS. 21 people from 4 municipalities participated (Ainaro, Covalima, Ermera and Oecusse).



WORLD FOOD DAY CELEBRATION

The World Food Day celebration is held annually in October with a different theme each year set by the MoH Nutrition Department. The objective is to raise community awareness on the importance of nutrition to prevent malnutrition. Alola, through its community based groups, decided to celebrate the event for the first time in 5 villages (Dili: 3 and Oecusse: 2). Having discussed the initiative with MSG members, it was decided to hold a competition on preparing good nutritious local food for young children using the PLATE model developed by the WFP. The communities competed by preparing nutritious complementary meals for

young children aged 9-12 months and 12-24 months using local indigenous products. To win, the group needed to choose a balanced diet according to the PLATE orientation, follow hygienic practices while preparing the food and know when to feed the child. A nutrition quiz was held after the competition. The celebration in Oecusse required participants to prepare different nutritious food for both children and adults using local indigenous food.



HANDOVER OF THE HALIKU (WOMEN'S CANCER SUPPORT PROGRAM) INTO ALOLA'S MCH PROGRAM

After a discussion between Fundasaun Alola and the HALIKU (Women's Cancer Support Program) team in early 2016 led by Ms. Kirsty Sword Gusmao, it was decided to integrate the HALIKU into Alola's MCH Program. On May 23, HALIKU or "*Hau Hili Atu Kura*" which means "I choose to be healed", was handed over through a formal

ceremony. 115 people attended the ceremony.

Since then, activities undertaken by HALIKU program have included a mini workshop on women's cancer prevention for MSG/SHIO members in 8 villages with 150 participants; a mini workshop for students from 3 schools attended by 131 students; a campaign to raise awareness in 39 villages attended by 2,113 people; and, women's cancer socialization and education through an exhibition held by SEPFOPE in 2 municipalities with 1,525 people attending. These activities informed people on the symptoms of cancer and contributing factors. The team also educated participants about conducting regular self-examinations for the early detection of breast cancer and about signs of cervical cancer. One of the main activities has been to support cancer patients for treatment. In 2016 HALIKU supported transport and biopsies for 9 patients and referred 29 patients to Dili National Hospital. There have been 75 referrals in total since the HALIKU program was established in 2014.

SHIO PROJECT EVALUATION

In April 2016, with support from Sunrise Joint Venture, an external evaluator was appointed by MCH to evaluate the SHIO program in Aileu and Ainaro municipalities



across the period 2014-2016. Dr. Joao Martins led the evaluation. The review developed a set of recommendations for Alola, stakeholders, community and beneficiaries about how to improve and sustain the program. The evaluation used qualitative approaches combining key information-depth interviews, focus group discussions and document reviews. The review found that the SHIO program was well implemented and members transferred health knowledge well to beneficiaries who demonstrated good understanding of health topics. The program has gained good support from community leaders. Partners, stakeholders and MoH staff recommended that the SHIO program be continued.



SUMMARY

The MCH is proud of its achievements in 2016 and its strong contribution to improving health for mothers and children. While the need for improved health remains urgent, we will seek new opportunities to expand our program. We thank our partners and donors for collaborating with us.



Number of Beneficiaries

Counseling to pregnant women & lactating women	37,937
Maternity Pack distribution	1,365
Complementary feeding Cooking Demonstrations	4,044
Community Discussion Forums	4,885
Breastfeeding and Safe Motherhood Film	1,126
World Breastfeeding Week Celebration	2,614
Babies received exclusive breastfeeding for the first 6 months with support MSG/SHIO.	605
Poster Distribution	2,730
Supported skin-to-skin contact for newborn babies	1,335

● Existing area of Alola's MSG/SHIO in 2016 (158 groups)



EDUCATION PROGRAM

Our Education Program focuses on building capacity and expanding opportunities for women and children to access quality education in Timor-Leste.

Our mission is to continue to develop our program, integrating innovations and taking every opportunity, until we have high quality education and women are equal beneficiaries.

In 2016, the Education Program increased its reach by

- 1) Continuing its scholarship support to students at primary, secondary school and university;**
- 2) Providing support to primary school leaders and teachers through a professional learning and mentoring program;**
- 3) Promoting the importance of reading within the community as a whole and increasing children's interest and ability; and,**
- 4) Developing opportunities for early learners through the Alternative Preschool Home-based and Centre-based Pilot.**

With funding from MAMA (Make A Mark Australia), we have also re-developed our Educational Resource Centre (ERC) that serves as a base for the development of local teaching materials.



The Education Program has continued to work closely with important external partners such as the Ministry of Education (MoE). Communities, children and students, schools and their teachers continue to benefit from Alola's integrated approach to service provision – multiplying outcomes by combining Education with Advocacy, Maternal and Child Health and Economic Empowerment.

Our achievements over the last year in each of our 4 sub-programs are described further below.

SCHOLARSHIPS PROJECT: INCREASING ACCESS TO EDUCATION

In this year 149 (M: 39, F: 110) young people were assisted with scholarships to attend primary, secondary school and university.

Multiple donors have a long-standing commitment to supporting access to education for students in Timor-Leste. Particularly concerned with addressing the compound disadvantage experienced by young women, the scholarship project especially focuses on young people from remote areas, from single-parent families, orphans, gender based violence survivors, children from large families or situations of risk.

In 2016, Alola further developed some elements of the program. Training was provided for scholarship recipients to increase their awareness of gender based violence, human trafficking and reproductive health. In new collaborations with schools, local government and women's organizations, the students were monitored to follow up and support the progress of their studies.



With support from the Australian Embassy and now through the Partnership for Human Development (PHD), the Alola Girls Education Award supported 48 young women from a mix of urban and rural areas to access universities in Dili and four municipalities. Students were assisted to be independent and strong in their decision-making and to take responsibility for their families and community. The universities attended were Ermera (1), Viqueque (1), Oecusse (3), Aileu (1) and Dili (42). Five female students graduated from university.

Hallmarks of the program are staff assisting students to manage their funds, group meetings so students can share experiences, direct visits to student's homes to meet with families and teachers. School results showed that students were performing better and there were also noticeable changes in behaviour.

Teachers were satisfied with their students' results and thanked Alola for their support. A lecturer from Ermera said, "On behalf of East Timor Coffee Institute, my gratitude goes to Alola who support students financially and in their training as well as increasing students' awareness of women's aspect of life".

The Scholarship Project and the Advocacy Program worked together to conduct job readiness training for graduates. Participants practiced writing their own CV's and application letters and were supported in their job searching.

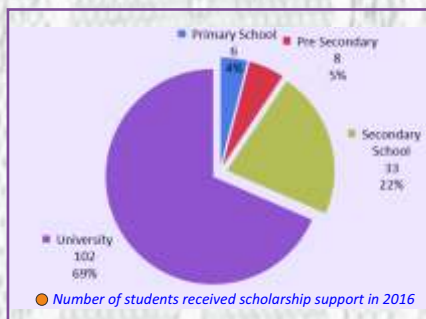
"This training has provided me with valuable information and guides me in searching for my future career", said one participant and another added, "This was such wonderful training for me; I learnt more about public speaking"

TEACHER TRAINING PROJECT: INCREASING THE CAPACITY OF OUR TEACHERS

With support from the Australian Embassy, the Teacher Training (TT) Project conducted mentoring and monitoring across 7 municipalities to 7 pre-schools and 23 primary teachers who had attended our training in previous years. The pre-school training focused on 10 units (including literacy, numeracy, arts, gross motor skills, classroom management) while our work for primary teachers centred on basic literacy, numeracy and physical education.

During this period, we have seen encouraging demonstrations of best practice. Staff observed many examples of best practice and were able to encourage the use of a broader range of teaching strategies in the classroom. Teachers and trainers worked together in developing lesson plans and delivering educational activities. Nevertheless, there are still many obstacles facing teachers such as shortage of teaching materials, inadequate school buildings and the need for teachers to receive more training to improve their teaching methods, creativity and professionalism.





It is important for young children to develop and refine their gross motor skills. Hence, the team introduced a teacher sports kit and demonstrated techniques of using big balls with children from grades 1-3. 114 primary teachers (M: 54, F: 60) were briefed on the literacy and sport packs.

“My dream is to strengthen my collaboration with other teachers to develop a variety of activities and use local materials to improve the quality of learning and fulfil myself as a teacher” said one teacher.

During 2016, we entered into an agreement with the Partnership for Human Development to participate in the “Professional Learning and Mentoring Program” (PLMP). PLMP aims to improve students' achievement by building the capacity of teachers / leaders in the new curriculum and pedagogies.

Program components include mentoring using international teachers, national teachers and accompaniers, school based peer professional learning teams and a leadership program. We were tasked with implementing the second phase of PLMP in 12 primary schools (32 teachers were mentored from September onwards). We conducted the Early Grade Reading Assessment (EGRA) and the Early Grade Mathematics Assessment (EGMA) to students in grades 1-2 in primary schools in Daisoli. 264 students (girls: 120; boys: 144) participated in September and 228 students (girls: 103; boys: 125) participated in November.

As a result, most the teachers in the Daisoli cluster are implementing lesson plans based on the new curriculum and teachers have improved their methods in preparation, lesson plan implementation, pedagogic ability, classroom management and the inclusive participation of students.

MOBILE LIBRARY PROJECT IN SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITIES – MAITALEE!!!

In 2016, in close collaboration with the Ministry of Education, the Alola Mobile Library continued to take books and other learning materials to schools and communities to foster a love of reading amongst children and a commitment to literacy amongst communities.

During the year, the Mobile Library team visited 5 preschools and 25 primary schools in Liquica, Lautem, Dili, Viqueque, Covalima and Manufahi. The team spent two weeks at a time on each trip to a municipality.





Number of children who accessed Mobile Library



As part of a ChildFund program that commenced in the latter part of the year, the Mobile Library team provided a 'high intervention' program in 4 schools in Liquica (Balibo and Maliana planned for 2017). 'High intervention' means providing a series of regular visits to support children with low reading skills. This program has included innovations such as drawing in older age students as peer tutors and parents as tutors too with the goal of increasing the commitment and skills within each community to enhance literacy.

BEST START FOR CHILDREN: ALTERNATIVE PRESCHOOL HOME-BASED AND CENTRE-BASED PILOT

In 2016, the Alternative Preschool Project further pursued its dream of getting the best start for children's learning in the municipalities of Ermera and Viqueque. The project is ambitious, aiming to establish 120 pre-schools across these two rural areas. The project was very successful in its first year of implementation, generating community engagement and increased awareness in the importance of early learning.

After a year of implementation and steady progress, an additional 6-month's investment (July-December 2016) was needed to complete the roll out of the program and provide an opportunity for more substantial results. Thus UNICEF extended our program and the implementing partners, IMI and KDP.

At the end of the first stage, a total of 123 preschools had been established in Ermera (64) and Viqueque (59). 65 were home-based and 58 centre-based. Open three days a week, volunteer facilitators (199 engaged) manage the centres with support from School Management Committees. Parents also support the facilitators to work with the children in the teaching and learning process.

The Alternative Preschool Project is proud of its general success: children's literacy, numeracy and ability to use learning resources has improved; SMCs are active in supporting preschools in their communities; parents understand the value of preschool education and support their child's attendance; facilitators perform well in teaching and learning; communities are finding funds and plan to construct their own preschools (PNDS – 2; community contributions – 13); and, 1225 (Ermera - 643, Viqueque- 582) children have graduated and continued to primary school.



SUCCESS STORY

Abrao Cabral, a 23-year father of two, had the brilliant initiative to contribute to children's education in his village of Samarogo, Nahareka in Ossu, Viqueque.

Abrao said, "In the first meeting with Alola and KDP about the establishment of the alternative preschool, it touched my heart and I thought this will help our children's education. It is a privilege for me and the community to have a preschool in our village."

Previously preschool sessions had been conducted in the facilitator's home with 35 children attending. As the space was very small Abrao, as a member of the School Management Committee, decided to mobilize the community for a "kindness contribution". With the contribution from the community, they constructed a new preschool building.

We offer sincere thanks to the donors - government, non-government and individuals - who have assisted us to expand opportunities for education in Timor-Leste.





Economic Empowerment Program

This last year has provided many opportunities for the Alola's Economic Empowerment Program to contribute to strengthening the important participation of women in their own economic lives and the broader economic future of the country. We are proud to be able to play a significant role in the ongoing development of the tais industry which is so important for women's economic independence and for the preservation of culture.

During 2016, we have also made a significant contribution to agricultural development for women through mechanisms such as the provision of micro-credit and capacity development. We continue to work with empowering women in small local cooperatives as one good way to achieve long term change.

Over the last decade the women that we have worked with have played an important role in alleviating poverty. When we talk about the economy, we are also talking about women because, in fact, women are necessary agents in the development of the economy. The empowerment of women in the economy is one of the primary indicators of growing prosperity.

It is undeniable about the important role of women in building economic resilience. The impact of the contribution of women is already being felt, particularly in the informal sectors. Women are half of the population and are a potential human resource for development. The data from the census in 2015 showed that almost half of the Timorese population is female. The role of women in nation-building is very large, a potential national asset and a significant contributor to economic development, both as agents of change as well as the subject of development. Women's participation in economic growth is very important not only to reduce poverty among women but also as a solid foundation in other sectors. Women make a contribution to the economy in areas such as agriculture, retail, wholesale trade and food. These are all sectors that are heavily dependent on women's labour. For example, in relation to economic growth, across the world women reinvest approximately 90% of their income in the health, education and welfare of the family.

To address the increasingly complex issues of women, the Alola Foundation partners with government and various donors by organizing various training to empower women in order to foster their self-sufficiency. The Economic Empowerment Program have developed their skills to encourage economic and social changes in society. Programs to empower women include assisting women to stimulate the development of their business as well as in the development of women's economy and reduce poverty.



WOMEN WEAVING A BETTER FUTURE THROUGH BETTER BUSINESS

In 2016, the Alola Foundation's Economic Empowerment program continued to work closely with existing handicraft collectives women from seven municipalities in order to develop their skill to maintain their livelihood. The Alola Foundation also provided opportunity to other municipalities to engage in Alola's handicraft program. The objectives of this project were (1) to enhance understanding of market opportunities and market access for women weavers in Timor-Leste; (2) to strengthen the weaving collectives' ability to produce and sell a diverse range of high quality products and (3) to provide educational and mentoring support to adolescent girls.



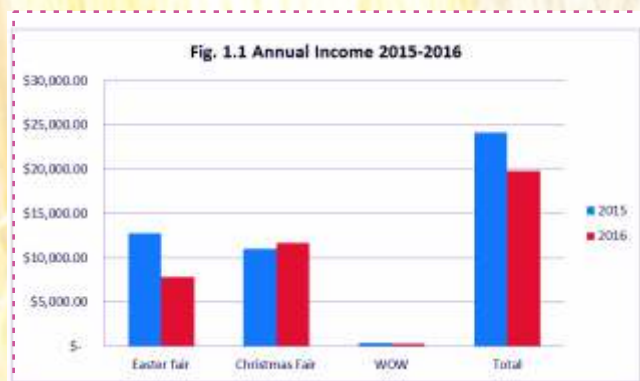
The Alola Foundation continues to provide capacity building through training in natural dyeing, development of the practice of weaving, product diversification and by an internship program through small handicraft businesses in Dili. This year the Alola Foundation related primarily to women's collectives with a combined membership of nearly 80 people from the four (4) municipalities of Bobonaro, Covalima, Lospalos and Baucau.



In addition, this program also provided a market opportunity for collectives in both the local and international markets. Our main strategy was to invite producer groups to participate in the two fairs that Alola organizes each year. These national fairs are held at Easter and at Christmas and are major events in the national calendar, attracting large crowds of visitors. The number of collective members that participated in the Alola's market event in 2016 was between 41- 48 across the two occasions.

Produce sold included woven materials or tais, carvings, sewn bags and dolls from Atauro, pottery, jewellery, coconut oil and soap as well as a range of foodstuffs and other products made from local produce. The total income taken by the producer groups from the Alola Fairs in 2016 was USD 19,474.15. Income earned in 2016 slightly decreased by approximately 18% in comparison to the sales of 2015. See fig. 1.1. *Collective Annual Income*.

Alola assists women's collectives by finding opportunities for promoting and selling local handicrafts by not only staging events ourselves and publicizing products widely but also by organizing training and providing professional product design and marketing advice for stall holders. International market places depend on market opportunities. Last year the Alola Foundation had the opportunity to promote Timorese artwork through the Women of the World (WOW) festival in the Katherine Region in Darwin, Australia.



One collective member from Bobonaro attended the event with Alola staff. This project is generously supported by the USA Embassy for Timor-Leste in partnership with the Asia Foundation Timor-Leste.

SUPPORTING WOMEN'S ECONOMY AND MAINTAIN TIMORESE CULTURAL HERITAGE:TAIS PURCHASING PROJECT

In 2016, the Economic Empowerment program continued to purchase tais from producer groups as part of incentive to support artisan groups to continue to produce fabrics and maintain Timorese culture heritage. This project supported by an individual charity through Mana Jill Forsyth who continues to sponsor this small project. Throughout the year the Economic Empowerment program continues to

purchase tais in small quantities through the avenues of Alola's Easter and Christmas Fairs. The tais that we purchased from producer groups were varied, with some being women's and some men's cloths and some being table runners. These pieces of fabric contribute to Mana Jill's collection and some are purchased for Alola itself as we then on-sell to both support women's economy and also to contribute funds for our own program development.



THE EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN IN THE ECONOMY THROUGH SMALL LOCAL COOPERATIVES

This project works with vulnerable women including victims of gender based violence in order to increase their access to income generation opportunities and promote women's economic independence. During this year, the project was implemented in Aileu district (Aiserimou), Ainaro town, Manufahi (Fatuberliu-Claco) and Lautem (Fuiluro). Alola's field officers in partnership with representatives from the Ministry of Social Solidarity (MSS) and representatives from district and local authorities selected these particular districts due to the high social risk that women face there including limited access to economy opportunities as well as high risks of gender based violence and human trafficking.

Working together to understand community needs, Alola's staff and Alola's Field Officers have identified that most women face economic problems due to limited financial resources and lack of knowledge of financial management. In response to this problem Alola provided training on business skills, financial management and delivered incentive funds of USD 1,500.00 to each group for a saving and loans program in their villages. Through this initiative, women now have access to loans for running their business either as an individual or in a group. This project also provided training on gender based violence and human trafficking to a total of 98 women across four groups in each of the four municipalities.

This training was provided by applying a cross-sectoral approach through integration with the advocacy program in order to increase the awareness of the target groups. This project supported by the MSS-DNDS.

SMALL-SCALE AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT: DISTRIBUTION OF RUBBER RAIN BOOTS

In relation to agricultural development, women in rural areas need different kinds of support and one good initiative continues to be the supply of rubber rain boots. In 2016, the Economic Empowerment program distributed 615 pairs of rain boots for women throughout the country. We supplied rain boots to women's agricultural groups across the municipalities of Aileu, Ainaro, Baucau, Covalima, Manatuto, Likisa, Lospalos, Oe-cusse and Viqueque. These boots were used by women for different purposes. They are used for coffee harvesting, vegetable growing, field rice and garden etc. The boots are donated by Hunter.



WOMEN ACHIEVING ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE THROUGH VIRGIN COCONUT OIL PROCESSING: SMALL-SCALE FOOD PROCESSING PILOT PROJECT

This year our small-scale food processing pilot project focused on the production of virgin coconut oil within the Viqueque Municipality in the sub district of Watu-Carbau and it was operated as a pilot project. The project is part of ongoing assistance by the Royal Thai Embassy of Timor-Leste to support women in rural areas by increasing the knowledge of women in food processing and in order to be able to generate better incomes at the household level.

The Alola Economic Empowerment staff collaborated with the professional trainers from the local organizations, Liras Baucau Shop and CTDI, who have high levels of experience in virgin coconut oil (VCO) processing. They provided training to the agriculture women's group in Viqueque. This training took place in early November over three days. The training involved 20 women members including the group's coordinator. The main topics included virgin coconut oil processing, labeling and storage and market access.

In addition, Alola handed over other materials and equipment that included a coconut grating machine, a press machine, buckets, funnels, a paper filter, a knife, machetes and other tool kits. The community leader (chief of village) participated in the handover of these materials and equipment. The purpose of these materials is to facilitate the VCO producer group to continue their activities in VCO production in a sustainable manner. Group members and the local leaders were very appreciative and gave thanks to the Royal Thai Embassy for their support through the Alola Foundation.



The Alola Foundation continues to provide capacity building through training in natural dyeing to women's collectives group in 4 municipalities with objective to develop their skill.





ADVOCACY PROGRAM

In 2016, the Advocacy Program continued our goal to promote women's human rights through campaigning, strengthening the leadership of women, developing networks with all partners and empowering women in all municipal areas to access information and understand their rights.

This year we have seen significant improvements for women, young people and children through the contribution of the Advocacy Program together with partners from the national and municipal levels. Furthermore, we have increased the capacity and knowledge of beneficiaries about prevention and protection from gender based violence, especially young women and men (students, teachers, people with disabilities and the broader community).



In the political sector at the village or suco level, Alola has contributed substantially to increasing participation of women in formal leadership positions from 8 to 21 women now elected to serve as head of the village. Women's rights have been enhanced through the introduction of new legislation (suco elections and human trafficking), through the socialization of the domestic violence law and the celebration of special days for women. The Human Trafficking Law was approved and promulgated to assure the protection for victims of human trafficking (a work plan with the 3 pillars of prevention, protection and prosecution is underway). The new Suco Election Law has also been approved and promulgated to ensure the participation of women at the village level.

We advocated about the recommendations in the Concluding Observations of the CEDAW Committee through socialization to students from a range of universities in Dili. In addition, the team advocated with SEPFOPE to set up a confidential place for women so that they can report problems at their workplace freely and safely.



During the year, we reviewed the achievements of 69 small enterprise groups funded by SEPFOPE and found that 68% were successful in implementing all their activities, with others gaining more limited success (total people: 562; 205 women; 357 men).

WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTRE PROJECT: DEVELOPING THE CAPACITY OF YOUNG PEOPLE

The Women's Resource Centre (WRC) provides opportunities for young women and men to develop their capacity and better understand their rights. In the last year, our statistics show that 2039 young people (1269 female; 772 male) benefited from this project by accessing the internet, computers, library as well as support and referral as victims of violence.



Life Skills Training and Monthly Discussions were conducted with topics including public speaking, human rights, gender based violence, human trafficking and the Domestic Violence Law. While young women and men in general benefited from this project, so did victims of domestic violence, people with disabilities and others including students, teachers and the community. For some socialisation, we were pleased to work with PLAN and UN Women. We produced a manual with the title: "Maintain respect for each other and be sensitive of gender".

A theatre program exploring gender based violence was implemented in schools from 3 different municipalities (755 participants: 429 female; 326 male).



Number of Beneficiaries WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTER

Women 1269
Men 772

TOTAL 2039

Number of Beneficiaries School Discussion

Women 429
Men 326

TOTAL 755

BENEFICIARIES WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTER, 2016

Two young women were supported to undertake a work placement with the Advocacy Program. One young woman achieved employment: Malinda Guterres declared, "The Alola Foundation gave support to me so I could develop my skills and also provided me with the motivation to be independent".

Integrating with other Alola programs, a team from the WRC conducted training for participants from the Economic Empowerment Program on gender-based violence, human

trafficking and the Domestic Violence Law. This training took place in 7 municipalities: Lautem, Baucau, Ainaro, Suai, Same, Manatuto and Viqueque.

Despite our efforts to combat violence, we still have unfortunately high numbers of women coming to Alola for assistance. During the year, 55 women survivors of DV, sexual and economic violence, human trafficking and abandonment received information, referral and minor humanitarian support from our Dili centre or through our rural program.





DISTRICT SUPPORT PROJECT: INCREASING WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN THE RURAL AREAS

In 2016, one of the main priorities of the District (Municipal) Support Project was supporting women to stand as candidates in the suco elections. We assisted 55 women candidates to stand, with our contribution ranging from accompaniment, provision of training on leadership and management and assisting women to network and share experience and skills.

As part of this program, we collaborated with the “100% I am Ready” Steering Committee, advocating to ensure that the new suco election law would provide an equal opportunity for women to compete. When the law was approved and promulgated, Alola socialized it through community radio at district and national level. When the elections were held, Alola monitored voting booths across the country.

Of the 55 female candidates supported by Alola, 8 were elected as village chief and 2 as hamlet chief. Also, significantly, 319 women overall stood, comparing to 45 in the last 2009 elections. As part of our evaluation, a national reflection was held in early December. Women candidates, successful and unsuccessful, shared experiences, made recommendations to resolve barriers for women and developed a 3-year work plan for their villages.

Amongst other achievements, five young women from the “Young Women Making Change” group participated in on the coaching based in institutions including women’s NGO’s and Secretary of State for the Promotion of Equality for Women (SEM). Of the five, two gained employment.

To promote women’s rights, we celebrated special women’s days: Rural Womens Day, National Women’s Day and the 16 days campaign in the three municipalities of Aileu, Manatuto and Oekusi (180 total participants: 118 women; 62 men).

We are grateful to our major funders, IWDA (International Women’s Development Agency) and SEPFOPE.





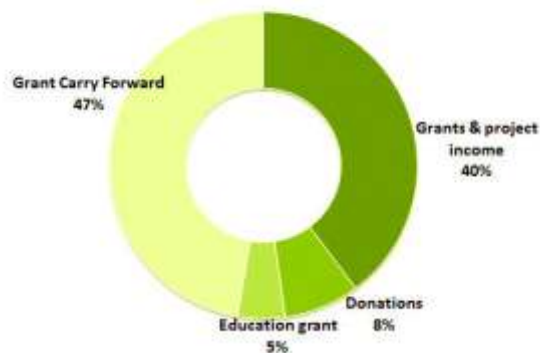
Obtaining appropriate information is the right of every citizen and this is guaranteed by the constitution in article 40. Radio is one of the closest information bridges to the community and this is an important part of Alola's communication strategy. Through a radio talk show program known as "Women in the world" supported by the Secretary of State for Social Communication (SECOMS), Alola Media disseminates information on integrated organizational programs, public education, and advocacy efforts. Alola believes that this strategy has the power to strengthen the credibility of the organization in the eyes of the community to accelerate the achievement of Alola's mission.

ALOLA FINANCIAL REPORT 2016

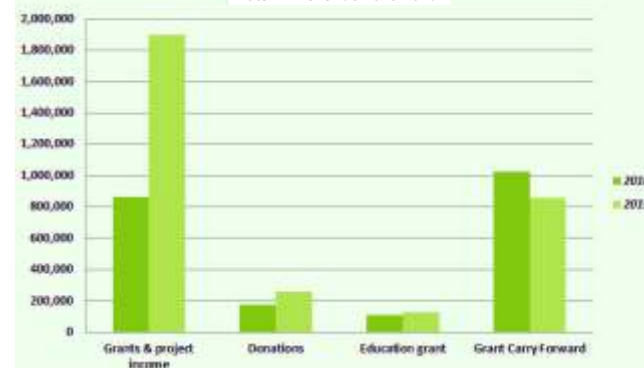
INCOME STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2016

	Note	2016	2015
		\$	\$
Revenue		1,778,468.55	1,439,665
Other revenue		-	-
Administration expenses		-363,766.48	-289,959
Project costs		-1,377,311.95	-1,073,605
Surplus/(deficit) after income tax		37,390.12	76,101
Note 2: Revenue			
<u>Revenue from Government and Other Grants</u>			
Grants & project income		861,219.74	1,898,633
Donations		172,340.16	259,428
Education grant		108,738.30	126,136
Carry Forward from Prior Year		1,023,215.95	860,107
Carry Forward to Next Year		-387,045.60	-1,704,639
		<u>1,788,468.55</u>	<u>1,439,665</u>
<u>Other Revenue</u>			
Sales		0	0
		0	0
<u>Total Revenue</u>		<u>1,788,468.55</u>	<u>1,439,665</u>

Note 2: Revenue



Note 2 : Revenue 2015-2016



BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2016

	2016	2015
	\$	\$
ASSETS		
<u>CURRENT ASSETS</u>		
Cash and cash equivalents	578,301	779,348
Operational advances	14,707	-
Trade and other receivables	25,093	1,104,178
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	618,101	1,883,526
<u>NON-CURRENT ASSETS</u>		
Property, plant and equipment	153,257	148,417
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS	153,257	148,417
TOTAL ASSETS	771,358	2,031,943
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Trade and other payables	405,792	1,710,311
Employee provisions	21,291	14,748
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	427,084	1,725,059
<u>TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</u>		
TOTAL LIABILITIES	427,084	1,725,059
NET ASSETS	344,274	306,884
<u>EQUITY</u>		
Funds available for future use	344,274	306,884
TOTAL EQUITY	344,274	306,884

CASH FLOW STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2016

	2016	2015
	\$	\$
<u>CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</u>		
Receipts from customers	400,183.64	351,078
Payments to suppliers and employees	-565,443.59	-509,806
Net cash generated from operating activities	-165,259.95	-158,728
Cash Flow from investing activities(property, plantand & Equipment)	-35,787.00	-142,103
<u>CASH FLOW FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES</u>		
Net cash generated from (used in) financing activities	-	-
Net increase in cash held	-201,046.95	-300,831
Cash at the beginning of the financial year	779,347.52	1,080,179
Cash at the end of the financial year	578,300.57	779,348

SUMMARISED INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

TO THE MEMBERS OF FUNDASAUN ALOLA

We have audited the attached Financial Report for Fundasaun Alola (the Company) for the period 1 January 2016 to 31 December 2016.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

The Management of Fundasaun Alola is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS). This responsibility includes: designing, implementing and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

Auditors Responsibility


Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements and accompanying notes are free of material misstatement.

An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the used accounting principles, or other relevant standards, and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

Auditors Opinion

In my opinion, except for the possible effects of the matters described in my Auditor s Management Letter, the financial statements present fairly. In all material respects, the financial position of Fundasaun Aloia as at December 31, 2106 and its financial performance for the year then ended. A detailed summary of our findings and recommendations is provided separately in our Audit Report of findings.

Name of Firm: **LEAO, Unipessoal Lda**


Moises Maria do Rego Leao, MBA
Registered Accountant No. 14125
Palapaso , Dili -Timor Leste;
Date. 10 March 2017

ALOLA FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ms. KIRSTY SWORD GUSMÃO (Chair).

Former First Lady of Timor Leste; Founder and Chair of Alola Foundation, Founder and President of Dili Institute of Technology, Founder of Xanana Reading Room, President of the Advisory Committee of the National Director of Linguistics, Member of the Board of Directors of Moris Rasik, Andrew McNaughton Trust, Patron of the Blair Forster Memorial Trust, and Goodwill Ambassador for Education, Timor-Leste, Chaired the Timor-Leste National Commission for UNESCO

Ms. CEDALIZA SANTOS

Head of Administration and Finance Department of UNESCO

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Ombudsman for Human Rights and Justice, Human Rights Defender, Board Director of ALFELA and PRADET .

Ms. ANTONIA CARMEN DA CRUZ

National Director of Social Services, Ministry of Social Services

Ms. ALBINA FREITAS

Member of National Parliament, Founder of NGO LUZEIRO.

Ms. Dra. TRIANA OLIVEIRA

Chief Department Maternal and Child Health, Ministry of Health

Ms. MARIA DOMINGAS ALVES

Commissioner of Civil Service, Former Ministry of Social Solidarity of Timor-Leste and Founder of women's organization, FOKUPERS



ALOLA STAFF LIST 2016



CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Alzira Freitas Siqueira dos Reis

MANAGERS

Maria Imaculada Guterres
Ema de Sousa
Jose Ximenes
Adalziza Dias Ximenes
Maria Evelina Imam
Joviano Jacob Neto

MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH PROGRAM

Albertina de Rosa
Alberto Brites
Amelia Amaral Soares
Beatris Ximenes
Celestina Flavia Maria
Joao Hornay
Justina Pereira
Jaquelina Sarmento
Liliana Pires Lizetti
Moura Luiza Meluiza
Mafalda da Cruz

Moises da Silva
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Pasquela Soares
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Domingas Soares
Arlinda C.B de Jesus. S
Ligia Ema Ximenes
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Pascoela Barreto


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Joanina Candida
Juliana Barreto
Lindalva Isa Boavida
Joao da Costa
Maria Rosa
Nuni M. Nobre
Triponio Verdial
Carmelita Do Rego
Jovita Da Costa

Abilio Luciano Guterres
Lucena Allen
Rosita dos Santos
Sofia Camoes Pereira
Natalia M. Moniz
Luisa G de Gonzaga

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Agustinha Fraga
Elesita Roserio
Francisca Alves Taolin
Jacinta Da Cruz
Joana Dos Santos
Joanina Da Costa
Josefina Q. Pereira
Juventina Sequeira
Luciana Guterres
Manuela Soares Brites
Cristalina de Jesus P.G.
Georgina da Costa Ximenes
Bendita Maria Jose dos Santos
Marquelina
Bendita Mendonca Barreto



Maria Do R. Da Silva Monteiro
Paulina Assis
Joe do Rego Faris de Oliveira

ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

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Mario Barreto
Ilda Maria da Cruz

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Adelio Batu Mali
Alfonso Ama Boko
Celestina Sousa
Cristina Santos Martins
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Eugenio Misquita
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Pascoal Martins
Paulino Ximenes
Paulo Rosario
Paulo de Jesus Carvalho
Rosa Boavida
Rosalina dos Santos
Rui Manuel Belo
Thomas Maria Belo

DONORS LIST 2016

THANKS YOU

On behalf of the women of Timor-Leste we would like to thank all our partners, donors and stakeholders for their support, dedication and generosity in 2016 which enables us to deliver our program to our community.

ADVOCACY:

SEPFOPE
SEJD
Australian Embassy
Alola Australia
IWDA - International Women's Development Agency
Make A Mark Australia

MATERNAL & CHILD HEALTH:

Conoco Phillips
AFAP-Australia
Alola Australia
UNFPA
UNICEF
WHO
PHD
Woodside
Chinese Embassy
World Food Program (WFP)
Individual donor

ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT:

Ministry of Social Solidarity
MJ Fund (Jill Forsyth)
The United States Embassy
The Asia Foundation
Alola Australia
The Thai Embassy

EDUCATION :

DFAT
UNICEF
Scholarship program supporters :

- Rotary District 9820
- Friends of Ballarat
- Bendigo Maubisse Friendship Committee
- Blair Foster Memorial Trust
- Alola Australia
- Individual donors
- Friends of Lacluta
- Friends of Alola in Norway
- Family Welfare Association/ friends of Alola in South Korea
- Indigo Shire Atauro Island Friendship Committee





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| Website : www.alolafoundation.org