



women for peace

2nd International Conference 2009

WOMEN FOR PEACE NARRATIVE REPORT



Donor Report: Norwegian Embassy
Project Coordinator: Filomena Barros Dos Reis

Secretariat: Fundasaun Alola

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8 August 2009

ABOUT THE CONFERENCE



Crowds register on the first day

Within days of violence and conflict erupting on the streets of Dili at the height of the 2006 political crisis, women and children left the relative safety of their homes to gather at the front of our Government Palace. There they unfurled banners, sang and prayed and drew the attention of their leaders to the unimaginable hardship and suffering they faced as the victims of a conflict they neither understood nor had contributed to.

From Kirsty Sword Gusmão's speech

Across the world women have increasingly gained a voice in the development of their communities reducing gender-related barriers to opportunities. However, for women in many countries, culture remains the main constraint in efforts to reduce gender inequalities. Women and men need to work together so peace and development can progress, especially in post-conflict environments which impact on women's access to education, jobs and decision-making.

The first Women for Peace Conference was held in Jakarta, Indonesia in 2007 and supported by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Timor Leste was pleased to have been chosen to host the second International Women for Peace Conference. Like women in many other countries, during the long struggle for independence, women of Timor-Leste contributed to the independence process in many different roles. For twenty five years our Timorese sisters struggled to survive under oppression of the Indonesian military. Today Timorese women try to find their self confidence in new roles in a Timorese society that is dominated by a patriarchal system. The occupation is over but today, domestic violence and cultural violence still play a dominant part in Timorese women's lives.

The conference created an opportunity for women from around the world to join with Timorese women and through discussion and artistic performance find ways to build on their experiences of transforming conflict into peace.

The conference included the following activities:

- Student research into the role of Timorese women in conflict and peace

- District Girl's Peace Conferences across Timor-Leste run by the Alola Education team.
- An artists workshop for a month before the conference to create visual and performing arts to reflect on conflict, its impact on women and creative ways forward
- Two days conference including artistic performances
- A 14 week road-show to share the outcomes, art, performance and theatre from the conference with all districts of Timor Leste

The conference expected to attract 200 participants but was very much over subscribed with more than 700 participants. Women from all over Timor-Leste flocked to the event and representatives from the Girl's Conferences also attended and contributed to the discussions.

CONFERENCE SUPPORTERS

- Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs - Major Donor
- Fundasaun Alola ¹
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs from the Democratic Republic of Timor Leste
- Ministry of Finance from the Democratic Republic of Timor Leste
- SEPI - Secretary of State for the Promotion of Equality
- UNMIT - United Nations Mission in Timor-Leste
- AusAid – for the 14 week Road Show

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

The conference took place on 5-6th March 2009 in Dili, Timor Leste, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Conference Hall, Marconi, in Dili. All the presentations were translated in English, Tetun and Portuguese. The two days involved plenary sessions, panel discussions and artistic performances so all participants are able to share their experiences of women as creative agents for peace.

The themes covered by the conference were:

- Creating spaces for peace: Women's experiences in peace building and reconstruction;
- Voices for Change: Women's voices in politics and decision-making in post-conflict societies;
- Women's creative strategies for economic independence in post-conflict societies;
- Justice and Solidarity for Women Survivors:
- Justice for Women Survivors of War and
- Justice for Women Survivors of Gender Based Violence;
- Interactions between formal and traditional justice;
- Impact of Culture and Religion on women's rights, particularly on dimensions such as Reproductive Rights and Bride Price;
- Women and arts in post-conflict societies: Let's talk about Peace!

¹ Fundasaun Alola was originally created to raise awareness of the widespread sexual violence against women and girls in Timor-Leste during the militia attacks of September 1999. Though this is still a key issue for Fundasaun Alola, today Alola provides a wide range of programs for the women and children of Timor-Leste. Working with community groups and individuals, programs aim to improve maternal and child health, create employment, promote human rights, strengthen community development, and improve the status of women. Now employing over 100 staff, Alola is committed to developing strong women who will be the leaders of the future in Timor-Leste. *Strong women, strong nation is our vision.*

STEERING COMMITTEE

A steering committee was established from the women's networks in Timor-Leste. The committee developed the funding proposal to the Norwegian Embassy then selected Fundasaun Alola to act as the secretariat for the conference, employing Mena Dos Reis as conference coordinator, with advice from Meredith Budge initially and then, more substantially from Kerry Nettle, both employed as international adviser by Fundasaun Alola.

The members of the steering committee represented the following groups:

- Fundasaun Alola
- Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Secretary of State for the Promotion of Equality
- Fokupers
- Asia Pacific Support Collective Timor Leste (APSCTL)
- Judicial System Monitoring Programme (JSMP)
- Memoria Viva
- National University of Timor Leste (UNTL)
- United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT)
- United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM)



Eva Tuft, Norwegian Charge D'Affaires for Timor-Leste (left) and Kirsty Sword Gusmao, Former First Lady of Timor-Leste

And conference participants below



SPEAKERS

The Speakers who presented at the conference were:

- Kirsty Sword-Gusmao – Chairwoman, Alola Foundation, Goodwill Ambassador for Education, Timor Leste
- Idelta Rodrigues - Secretary of State for the Promotion of Equality, Timor-Leste
- Dr Gunnar Stålsett - Special Envoy of Norway to Timor-Leste
- Suraiya Kamaruzaman - Flower of Aceh - Indonesia
- Gardis Arivia - University of Indonesia - Social and Political Science
- Galuh Wandita - International Centre for Transitional Justice - Indonesia
- Maria Domingas Fernandes Alves – Minister of Social Solidarity, Timor-Leste
- Maria Paixoa - Vice President of Parliament - Timor-Leste
- Koila Olsson - Fijian Peace Centre
- Madalena Hanjam - Deputy Minister for Health, Timor-Leste
- Manuela Leong Pereira - International Centre for Transitional Justice
- Maria Bareto - Advocacy Officer - Fokupers - Timor-Leste
- Dr Sara Niner - Monash University, Australia
- Flora S Menezes - Justicial System Monitoring Programme, Timor-Leste
- Romana Vijeyaras - International Organisation for Migration, Vietnam



One of the artworks produced at the artist's workshop

BACKGROUND TO THE CONFERENCE

“Women are equal heroes with men and should be honoured and recognized for their costly devotion to a better future for this nation. Their voice is important in pursuing justice, truth and reconciliation in dealing with the past and in building bridges to the next generation.”

Bishop Gunnar Stålsett.

Like women in many other countries, during the long struggle for independence, women of Timor-Leste contributed to the independence process in many different roles. For twenty five years our Timorese sisters struggled to survive under oppression of the Indonesian military. They were used by the Indonesian military to demoralize Timorese men who fought for independence. They were tortured, oppressed and traumatized. Today the Timorese women try to find their self confidence in new roles in a Timorese society that is dominated by a patriarchal system. The occupation is over but today, poverty, domestic violence and cultural violence still play a dominant part in Timorese women's lives. One example is the bride price or *Barlarke*, once a symbol of families coming together, but now a dangerous burden, compounding poverty and fostering a sense of purchase or ownership of women.

This conference was organized to provide an opportunity for women across Asia to share about ways to move from conflict to peace, to find justice and solidarity, to acknowledge and value traditional culture, while reducing its negative impact on society. By using drama, song, visual arts and storytelling during the conference, we hoped to draw upon these powerful artistic tools to more fully explore these challenging issues.

In December 2002, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women was ratified by the Parliament of Timor-Leste, reaffirming the commitment already assumed in Article 17 of the RDTL Constitution – Equality between Women and Men: *Women and Men shall have the same rights and duties in all areas of family life and political, economic, social, cultural.* The convention requires the elimination of discrimination at all aspects of women's life, from the areas of education to employment, to family and to professional life, from healthcare to rural development, from the stereotypes to the public spending.

The ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women constitutes an important step towards women's rights in Timor-Leste by conferring an essential legal instrument, which all national legislation must comply with. It becomes mandatory that all national legislation is in accordance with the CEDAW principles.

It is important to note too that the Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000) calls on peace operation to incorporate a gender perspective in all aspects of work and stresses the importance of ensuring that special needs of women and girls are met in post-conflict reconstruction. Resolution 1325 supports local women's peace initiatives and increased representation of women at all levels of decision making. Thus, all relevant partners including government, CSOs/NGOs, academic institutions, private entities, etc with the support of donors, must systematically collaborate in identifying and implementing integrated efforts for dealing with women's issues and concern in the areas of conflict prevention, peacemaking, peace building and reconstruction. This calls for committed and coordinated action of all players and partners concerned.

Through this conference, we wanted to foster a creative environment for women to share their experiences and hear from some of the incredible women in the region, hoping that the conference would make a valuable contribution to the nation's future development. It also aimed to be an opportunity for women to bring bright ideas together to improve our discourse, knowledge and understanding of gender issues for peace building and reconstruction across the region.

The members of the steering committee are confident that the conference and its project was a success according to the objectives and plans. There was full participation of women in the conference and also in other activities of the Road Show. The main goal of the two-day conference was to increase the participation of women in peace-building, and also to share among women their experiences as peace-builders and peace-makers in post-conflict societies. The

women unanimously endorsed conference documents, such as Recommendation for the Timor-Leste Government, Resolution and Dili Declaration. They also endorsed the *Platform For Action*, which was adopted through the National Women Congress in September 2008. See Recommendations from the Conference below.

CONFERENCE OBJECTIVES

- Promote and celebrate the creative role that women can make to society as Artists and craftspeople.
- Recognize the vital role of women in conflict transformation and peace building and the importance of their participation in efforts towards reconstruction.
- Join the international peace building network with other women's organizations in the region
- Explore the impact of culture on men and women across the world
- Increase participation of women in peace-building.

PROPOSED OUTCOMES

- Creating artistic, theatre and music productions that tell the story of women as creative agents for peace, development and reconstruction.
- Build solidarity among women and solidarity from society from all levels for peace, development and reconstruction. Example: Politicians; men, grassroots community
- Improved creative programs using artistic avenues to take local action to prevent violence against women.
- Increased innovative strategies in dealing with women's needs and interests in Peace, development and reconstruction.
- Strengthen relationships between women artists in Timor-Leste and also with international women

PROPOSED OUTPUTS

- Artistic, theatre and music productions on women as creative agents for peace, development and reconstruction.
- Book with stories from women in the districts, collected by university students.
- Action Plan that collects ideas to apply at the local level.
- Conference report.
- Roadshow of art, theatre and music as part of a travelling one day workshop sharing the outcomes of the conference with women in the districts. The 13 week program from April to June running at least 26 one day workshops, two held in each of 13 districts.

CONFERENCE ACTIVITIES

The activities for this Conference were steeped in an environment of creativity, knowing that when women create together, they build solidarity and find healing. The activities prior to the main conference included a student led local history project. Students from the University of Timor-Leste (UNTL) were commissioned to collect stories from older women who lived through the occupation. A collection of their stories has been compiled and translated into English. The group also produced a dramatic film about the impact of violence on women. A series of 'Girl's Conferences' were held across Timor-Leste to engage young women in the issue and gather their perspectives. A four week Artists' workshop created a space for collaborative art between international and national artists as a way of sharing the experiences of artists across the world.

Each activity had an underlying goal, for example, the UNTL project encouraged young people to value and learn from the stories of older women in their communities. The Girl's Conferences created opportunities for leadership and to build young women's confidence to contribute to women's forums in the hope that they would strengthen their voice

among women. The Artists' Workshop created a space for sharing talents and learning from different cultures, including creating some lasting reminders of the role of women as creative agents for peace through the sculptures at Rosa Muki Bonaparte Park.

The Road Show was designed to share the results of the International Women for Peace Conference; to raise community awareness on women's role in peace-building, and to increase the capacity of women by using a conflict transformation approach for problem-solving.

CONFERENCE ACTIVITIES IN MORE DETAIL

COLLECTING WOMEN'S STORIES – RE-CREATING STORIES OF WAR AND PEACE

University level students were invited to interview older women in their communities, to write up their stories. Students were encouraged to use a range of writing forms, eg short story, interview, poetry, play or newspaper article. Photos were collected to create pictorial stories of the women and their families and their working life as well. It was hoped that the best 2 or 3 stories would be presented by the students at the conference and a booklet of all the best stories would be collated and produced with photos – to record the stories for future reference. This project was coordinated and supervised by the UNTL. Unfortunately, the quality of the stories was not great. In retrospect, this activity needed far more input from the steering committee with a dedicated 'Student Project Coordinator' to run writing workshops, provide direction and feedback, to help the students to develop their writing skills. Unfortunately resources and time prevented this.

GIRLS' CONFERENCE

The Alola Education team took the initiative to build on the conference themes by running a series of peace conference for Secondary aged young women across Timor-Leste. The Girl's Conferences were very powerful forums, lead by experience educationalists able to draw out the thoughts and ideas of the children through participatory learning activities. Each district conference then elected two representatives to attend the Dili Conference. This activity was wholly funded by Fundasaun Alola and linked with its other education program activities.

ARTIST COMMUNITY – CREATING VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS TO REFLECT ON CONFLICT, ITS IMPACT ON WOMEN AND CREATIVE WAYS FORWARD

Painters, sculptors, weavers, photographers, musicians, dancers, poets and actors were invited to share in a artists' community workshop in the four weeks prior to the conference to explore issues facing women and to create artworks that tell the stories of the challenges women face living with conflict and their role in peace and reconciliation. The artworks were exhibited and performed at the conference.

Throughout the conference, it was planned that actors and musicians be invited to reflect on the issues and ideas raised throughout each day, providing instant theatre and music performances to recreate or replay these issues and ideas as part of the plenary sessions. Due to the inexperience of the artists, playback theatre was not possible, however, the artists did present a play at the end of day one and music played a major part of the final session of day two with the conference song and other peace songs performed and then sung together with the entire audience.

TWO DAY CONFERENCE

"Healing for victims is healing for the people of Timor-Leste. This is a responsibility that cannot be denied. To postpone it will only place the burden on the next generation". Galuh Wandita

More than 700 women attended the two day conference from all the continents and many from Timor-Leste. The presentations were all of a very high standard and very well received by the audience.

Presenters were divided into panels of three based around the Themes of the conference² after which the audience were invited to ask questions and comment on the presentations. These were lively and dynamic sessions. The conference feedback forms were all very positive. The program was interspersed with songs, plays and films which creatively explored the role of women in peace building.



Participants with Suraiya Kamaruzaman – (centre) Flower of Aceh – Indonesia

Following the inspiring opening addresses from the Prime Minister, **HE Xanana Gusmão** and from **Sra Idelta Rodrigues**, the Secretary of State for the Promotion of Equality, **Kirsty Sword Gusmão** gave a moving introductory speech highlighting the purpose of the conference and the plight of women in post-conflict societies. Her speech closed with an evocative film and poem about the 2006 crisis, *To'o ona! or Enough!* made by the conference Coordinator, Filomena Dos Reis. Kirsty's presentation set the scene, and the standard, for all the subsequent highly interesting presentations which covered the full range of issues affecting women who search for peace in post conflict nations.

Dr Gunnar Stålsett, the Special Envoy of Norway to Timor-Leste, spoke about the positive and negative impacts of religion on the rights of women and called for tolerance and understanding, equality and justice for all women. Dr Stålsett, called on religious groups to lead the call for gender equality, referring to the Executive Director of UNICEF, Ms. Ann Veneman who emphasizes that the authoritative voice of religious institutions is vital because much of the gender inequality that exist has historically been justified by reasons of culture, tradition or religion. He went on to quote Ms Veneman: *"Religion must become a tool that helps address the unequal treatment of women, rather than a means of perpetuating it."* He also noted that the word "Religion" means 'binding us together' and should be about relationships not division.

Suraiya Kamaruzaman, from the Flower of Aceh organisation in Indonesia, spoke of the need for dialogue and understanding, for peaceful and loving advocacy and action to bring parties together to resolve differences. She prompted many to tears as she described the hardship and struggle for women in Aceh, often oppressed by hardline Islamic laws.

Gardis Arivia from the Social and Political Science unit of the University of Indonesia spoke about the many different forms of gender based violence in Indonesia. These include political, religious, cultural and domestic violence, all which prevent women from leading lives of peace and equality. She quoted from a publication of young people's writing "Women for Peace" which concluded that *"They realized that democracy without women is not democracy. A democratic state should include women's participation."*

² See Appendix B for conference program.

Galuh Wandita, from the International Centre for Transitional Justice in Indonesia, focused on women as victims of war and their call for justice, highlighting the deliberate use of gender violence as a tool of war and its devastating impact on women. Commenting on atrocities across Asia, Galuh particularly focused on the outcomes of the CAVR – *Chega!* Report. This report’s recommendations have yet to be acted on, which include the need for reparation, social services and justice for women survivors of the occupation.

Sra Maria Domingas Fernandes Alves, the Minister of Social Solidarity, RDTL and long term women’s activist in Timor-Leste, gave a rousing speech highlighting the need for women in leadership, advocating for change and to bring justice and end gender based violence for the women of Timor-Leste. *“Without Justice for Women there is no justice for anyone,”* she said.

The Vice President of Parliament in Timor-Leste, **Sra Maria Paixoa**, outlined the importance of women’s voices in peace, politics and decision making in post-conflict countries. She said that too often it remains a missing part in the peace process. She acknowledged the progress in Timor-Leste with 29.2% of parliamentarians now women and the introduction of gender focal point workers in every ministry across government. However she also noted that the patriarchal system in TL created ongoing barriers to equality and therefore real democracy. She finished by saying: *“Women’s voices must be heard, gender equality and equal participation of women in politics and decision making in all stages and at all levels is a must.”*

Koila Olsson from the Fijian Peace Centre gave a particularly poignant presentation about the need to create spaces that foster dialogue, open and honest listening and exchange. With the conflicts in Fiji fresh in our minds, her role as peacemaker is not an easy one. But Koila talked about the need for grace and reconciliation in all parts of our lives and at all levels of society in order to bring real and lasting peace. Many were in tears as she told stories of suffering but also told stories of reconciliation and hope.

Maria Bareto, of Fokupers in Timor-Leste, presented a confronting picture of the plight of women experiencing domestic and sexual violence, with confronting images of beaten women and horrendous stories of very young girls and older women. She called for better services, a stronger protection and justice system, and particularly the need for women to provide solidarity for each other in times of need.

Madalena Hanjam, the Deputy Minister for Health, Timor-Leste, highlighted the importance of comprehensive health services to meet the needs of women and ensure security in child birth through to old age. She described the progress being made by the Ministry of Health to improve services for women, while acknowledging the challenges that still lie ahead.

Romana Vijeyarasa, International Organisation for Migration in Vietnam, gave a very interesting presentation about the impact of traditional justice on women. Her methodical comparison of traditional justice systems across Asia, was compared with formal justice systems. Her conclusions reinforced the need for women to access a strong and well resourced formal legal system in order to find protection and gain justice.

Flora Soriano Menezes, Legal Researcher, Women’s Justice Unit, Judicial System Monitoring Programme (JSMP) in Timor-Leste outlined the specific impact of traditional justice in Timor-Leste, highlighting its benefits for simple cases but demonstrating why Gender Based Violence must be dealt with through the Formal Justice system. Too often, while women are the victims, they are not acknowledged as part of the traditional justice process. But she emphasized the need for *“further research and exploration into how the traditional system in Timor-Leste can work with the formal system, and thus give people a greater sense of confidence that their legal system represents them and delivers justice.”*

Manuela Leong Pereira from the International Centre for Transitional Justice in Timor-Leste spoke about the need for Justice for women survivors of War. Reminding us that women in TL have suffered oppression and violence since Portuguese times, during World War II and particularly throughout the Indonesian Occupation. She described how the suffering continues for these women as so few have been given the space to speak about their experiences, nor provided with support to heal their many wounds. Survivors of war often live with ongoing trauma, bringing up children of rape, and many continue to experience domestic violence. While veterans are recognized as heroes and

receive pensions and medals, women survivors have not been acknowledged or compensated to date. Their suffering goes on in silence. She gave a practical summary of actions that civil society and government should take to address these ongoing injustices. She quoted: Galuh Wandita: *“Healing for victims is healing for the people of Timor-Leste. This is a responsibility that cannot be denied. To postpone it will only place the burden on the next generation”*. This very much summed up the spirit of the conference.

Dr Sara Niner, from Monash University in Australia, made the connection between economic empowerment and peace and justice, highlighting the impact of poverty on women. She described women’s need to find a voice and an outlet for creative expression. Women need access to economic security and opportunities to explore their cultural heritage in order to build a strong future and find peace for themselves and their families.

This brief summary does not do justice to the quality and power of the presentations, so we commend you to the Alola website – www.alolafoundation.org – for the opportunity to download and read the conference papers. Fundasaun Alola has compiled the presentations into booklet form and is currently exploring print and distribution options.



Lively discussion followed the panel presentations.

ROADSHOW EXHIBITION OF ART AND THEATRE AND WORKSHOP

In the weeks following the conference we planned to rollout a Road show of the artwork, theatre performances and music across the districts. One day workshops were held in each district to share the conference outcomes, to exhibit the artwork, tell the stories and replay the theatre and music performances. In this way, the collected stories were shared with women across Timor-Leste not just for those who could attend the conference. See Appendix D for a summary of the Road Show including some wonderful photographs of the events.



The Prime Minister, HE Xanana Gusmão, talks with the conference coordinator, Filomena Dos Reis and the UN Representative, for Timor-Leste.

SUMMARY OF OBJECTIVES AND FINAL OUTCOMES

OBJECTIVE	PROPOSED OUTCOMES	PROPOSED INDICATORS	ACTUAL OUTCOMES
Promote and celebrate the creative role that women can make to society as Artists and craftspeople.	Creating artistic, theatre and music productions that tell the story of women as creative agents for peace, development and reconstruction.	<p>Student project produces a book of women's stories in Timor-Leste – February 2009.</p> <p>Artwork, Songs and theatre productions produced as lasting record of women's contribution to peace – March 2009.</p> <p>Roadshow – 26 one day workshops promote the outcomes of the conference including artworks and theatre productions – April to June 2009.</p>	<p>A short research was conducted by the students of Community Development Department-UNTL on women's involvement in peace-building, and was supervised by the Conference Coordinator. Students produced essays on the subject.</p> <p>Artist workshop created collaborative art pieces between national and international community artists, such as paintings, theatre plays and 2 films. The film was played at the conference and used for the Road Show across the country from May to June 2009. The artists also collaborated in Rosa Muki Park, where they renovated stones. Each person, especially women, went to the park to write their names on these stones.</p> <p>The Roadshow collaborated with 39 Chefe do Sucos in all 13 districts to schedule performances in their sucos. Given that most topics were sensitive in nature, a facilitator was recruited and trained to facilitate discussions following each performance. Artists travelled for 42 days across the country to conference results with rural communities.</p>
Recognize the vital role of women in conflict transformation and peace building and the importance of their participation in efforts towards reconstruction.	Increased innovative strategies in dealing with women's needs and interests Peace, development and reconstruction.	200 women attend the conference including 40 international participants and 120 local Timorese women and 20 people involved in presentation, facilitation and organization in March 2009.	<p>More than 700 women attended the two day conference from all continents and many from Timor-Leste.</p> <p>Participants were very active in discussions after each speaker presented their paper.</p> <p>Girls Conferences held across Timor-Leste. Active participation by school girl representatives at the conference. Evidence of strong leadership potential.</p>
Join the international peace building network with other women's organizations in the region	Build solidarity among women and solidarity from society from all levels for peace, development and reconstruction. Example: Politicians; men, grassroots	<p>Well organized and enjoyable two day conference.</p> <p>Active, positive interaction between participants.</p>	<p>Calendar was produced to ensure the timetable and coordination of the project and activities</p> <p>8 meetings were held with the steering committee for the selection of topics, speakers and also participants/countries.</p> <p>Criteria was developed for national and international participants.</p>

	community Strengthen relationships between women artists in Timor-Leste and also with international women		All presentations were stimulating, sometimes confronting, promoting solidarity and peaceful advocacy on behalf of all women.
Explore the impact of culture on men and women across the world	Improved creative programs using artistic avenues to take local action for violence against women.	Action plans and ideas will be developed during the conference which can be applied into the future across all participating nations. Road Show and ongoing use of artistic media produced by artist workshop	Participants contributed actively in discussions and exceeded the objectives of the conference by endorsing Recommendation, Resolution and the Dili Declaration. (see below) Road Show was conducted to share the conference results with the community in very remote areas, to raise community awareness on women's role in peace-building and to raise awareness among women to use conflict transformation approach for problem-solving.
Increase participation of women in peace-building.	Encourage women to share their stories and find strength from each other to mobilize action for peace building in their communities.	Conference report available in two or three languages – July/August 2009.	Promotional were aired six times on Radio Timor-Leste and twice on TVTL to talk about the conference and women's involvement in peace-building. 200 bags and 250 T-shirts were produced together with publications. They were distributed to participants at the registration desk. 10 announcements were made on Radio Timor-Leste and Television Timor-Leste (TVTL) to call for registration and participation. 5 news articles were published in the local newspaper about the conference activities and especially about the artist workshop. 5 interviews were conducted with foreign TV stations, such Australia TV Channel 9, Sky News, Radio e Televisão de Portugal International and BBC about the conference that was held in Timor-Leste and the topics. 2000 brochures and 800 posters were produced for the Road Show and distributed in each community after the performance. Report supplied in August in English

RECOMMENDATIONS AND RESOLUTIONS FROM THE CONFERENCE

The final session of the conference was an open floor discussion to collect ideas that could be drafted into recommendations and resolutions to the the Timor-Leste government and for women's groups around the world.

RECOMMENDATIONS SECOND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE - WOMEN FOR PEACE

- *Peace is not just the absence of war but also requires that people have food and shelter, are healthy, educated and secure.*
- *Create opportunities for women to heal from the violence they have experienced, and create peace within themselves.*
- *Women need space in their communities to come together and dialogue, strengthen their peacemaking skills*
- *We remind the government, the United Nations and all institutions engaged in Timor-Leste's peace process, and all other peace processes, to implement Security Council Resolutions 1325 and 1820 to assure women's involvement and a gender perspective in all programs and peace processes.*
- *We must hold the perpetrators of sexual violence and rape to account.*
- *Religion needs to become an instrument of women's liberation rather than perpetrating our oppression*
- *We recognize that it is challenging for every faith to speak honestly about religion as part of the problem, not just as the solution, therefore we need continued dialogue between religious leaders, the government and communities.*
- *We need stronger mechanisms to assure women's economic status that guarantee women's freedom to make decisions for themselves and their families*
- *We recognize all the steps the government has taken to assure women's rights and equality, but few in the population understand the laws, therefore more consultation is necessary both to gather women's perspectives before drafting a law and informing us once it is promulgated*
- *We need to strengthen networking among women internationally for justice, to support victims to speak out, and find creative solutions for holding human rights violators accountable.*

RESOLUTION ON GENDER & JUSTICE TO THE GOVERNMENT OF TIMOR-LESTE FROM THE TIMORESE PARTICIPANTS AT THE SECOND INTERNATIONAL

Believing that the experience of Timor-Leste lasting reconciliation cannot be achieved without establishing the truth regarding the context, causes, antecedents, motives and perspectives which led to the violence and human rights violations; striving for justice and providing reparations to victims.

Believing that reparations are necessary to restore the dignity of victims and to repair damaged relationships within the community. In Timorese culture, the institution of kasu sala – a traditional mediation process of rolling out the mat to establish the facts, identify the wronged and the wrong doer and what compensation should be given to the wronged party – had for centuries set the foundation for community reconciliation and peace building. Believing that Gender Justice is a precondition to lasting peace and development Reaffirming the need to implement fully the CEDAW and the human rights and humanitarian laws that Timor-Leste has signed onto Emphasizing the responsibility of all states to put an end to impunity and to prosecute those for responsible for gender based crimes against the women of Timor-Leste such as sexual and other torture and violence against women and girls.

CALLS ON THE GOVERNMENT OF TIMOR-LESTE

1. *To under take actions and measures such as the following:*
2. *Investigate and prosecute the crimes committed during the 1999 crisis and under the occupation.*
3. *Document and record the atrocities and violence against women during the occupation and the 1999 crisis.*

4. *Undertake reforms and measures to compensate the victim/survivors with reparation, legal and medical support, psycho-social support, social protection and education and livelihood skills development and economic opportunities.*
5. *Address gender based violence within the current context of domestic violence through the adoption of the Criminal Code and the Domestic Violence Law and provide financial and human resources for the implementation of the laws.*
6. *Adopt suitable measures for appropriate response to victim/survivors of domestic violence and other forms of gender based violence.*
7. *Remove all articles in the Law that discriminates against Women.*

DILI DECLARATION

See Appendix C for the Tetun version of this declaration.

CONTROVERSIES

The presentations from the speakers were often very moving, addressing issues of conflict, gender based violence, the impact of religion and culture on women. The presenters spoke with passion but also with grace, often describing difficult and confronting issues like incest, unwanted pregnancies after rape, and sometimes showed disturbing images of the horrendous impact of domestic violence on women. The issue of abortion in extreme cases, like sexual violence and to save the life of a young girl unready for pregnancy were raised. Suraiya Kamaruzaman, from Indonesia spoke about how women had changed the hearts and minds of hard line Moslem leaders through dialogue and by creating space for women to tell their stories and be heard. This and the presentation from Fokupers, an organisation dedicated to women's rights and which provides shelter for survivors of domestic violence, highlighted the challenges facing women who become pregnant through violence. There was much discussion and disagreement about this issue, including harsh comment from a representative of the Catholic Church. The discussions highlighted again, the need to create listening spaces to promote open and honest dialogue.

CHALLENGES

Some of international participants could not attend the conference because of a lack of funding. The committee organizer only had funding for travel and accommodation for international speakers. Unfortunately one of the key presenters from Bougainville was unable to attend due to bad weather that prevented her flight leaving Bougainville in time for the conference. It may be worth encouraging speakers from such areas to plan to arrive a few days early to ensure they are in country in time for the event.

As the conference was so oversubscribed, the venue, while large enough to accommodate everyone, could not provide translation units to all participants.

We had originally planned to hold a series of break out workshops to encourage smaller group discussion and to develop the recommendations from the conference, however, the costs and logistics of managing translations made this impossible. As a result, all presentations and followup discussions were held in the large space which may have limited the contribution of some participants.

We had also hoped for the artists to provide a form of playback theatre as part of the plenary sessions each day but the artist were younger and less experienced than expected and did not have the skills to provide this, although they did perform a powerful play prepared during their pre-conference workshop. It may be that further compensation was needed to encourage the more experienced artists in Timor-Leste to participate in the conference at this level.

While the international Artists were very skilled and contributed significantly to the conference, an assumption was made that while they only spoke Portuguese, they would be able to communicate with local artists. The Timorese

artists were all very young and did not speak Portuguese. In hindsight an international artist with Bahasa or Tetun may have engaged more effectively with the artists.

The Road Show involved difficult travelling and a rigorous schedule, which made it hard for us to find volunteer artists. In addition, they only had 3 days in each district to cover many Sucos. Each Suco was given a small sum of money to provide snacks, but some Sucos asked for more money.

LESSONS LEARNED

Running a conference of this size is a very large task which requires significant experience and skills to manage. Alola engaged the support of an international adviser, Kerry Nettle, with conference experience to assist in the conference planning and programming. It is important that funding include international advice for these kinds of events to provide technical expertise and to make the international links needed for an event of this magnitude.

Careful criteria and selection processes need to be established before advertising for artists and speakers, both locally and internationally to ensure they have the skills, experience and language, required for the tasks. The artistic contributions, while effective, were not as dynamic as originally hoped due to the inexperience of the local artists and the language barriers of the international artists. Fortunately the international adviser was able to work with the speakers and provide feedback on their submissions to ensure their presentations were lively and pitched appropriately to the audience. Initially some of the papers submitted were very academic but with feedback from the adviser, all presenters were encouraged to provide lively, engaging and practical presentations which included many real examples that connected with the audience.

A lack of prior research into the costs required to hire artists meant that we underestimated the budget required to retain their services. However, once it was realized that higher fees were required to engage experienced artists for the program, the coordinator chose to select young students instead. While it was good experience for them it did limit the outcomes for the conference. Had the steering committee been aware of this increased expense, it may have been helpful to review the budget and consider ways to reassign funds to include at least a small number of more experienced artists.

Due to the very effective networks that our women's groups have established across Timor-Leste, many local women learned about the conference and were very keen to attend. It was very difficult to turn people away. As the venue was capable of accommodating large numbers, it is important to secure adequate numbers of translation devices for all participants. While we were able to borrow devices from the UN and other agencies, it may have helped to apply funds to allow hire of more devices. Further thought also needs to be given, to ways to enable smaller group discussions with such diverse language groups so that future workshops can include breakout discussion groups to give all women a voice. It is worth noting that the translators engaged for the conference were excellent.

UNEXPECTED OUTCOMES

Given that over 700 people attended the conference, the majority of whom were Timorese women from across the country, it is clear that this event was a much sought after and significant event for women. Since then, we have received complaints from some of our networks that they were not able to attend. The response to all the sessions was very positive and the open microphone was very well used at the end of the panel presentations. Timorese women clearly want a forum to discuss these issues and they want to be heard. The outcomes of the road show also confirm this.

It happened that the conference coincided with the Timor-Leste government's call for submissions on the new penal code, which included a section of the criminalization of abortion which is a very sensitive issue in such a staunchly Catholic and traditional culture. Some key participants were called to a hearing during the conference which required some rescheduling of the program. As a result, the issue was high in people's minds during the conference. While the discussion from the floor on abortion was heated, the presenters addressed the issue with sensitivity, grace and

firmness, presenting real stories of why, in some cases, women's right to a safe abortion was needed. It was a time of frank discussion but the grace and passion of the presenters was reinforced once again the need for openness and a spirit of forgiveness and love in the midst of even the hardest and divisive of issues.

While the artists were young and inexperienced and were not able to provide playback theatre, they did develop their skills, particularly during the Road Show, and their performances became stronger and more powerful over time. An evocative song was also written for the conference, which was sung with candles distributed to all the participants, and this was a very moving occasion.

The students who collected stories also produced a film about domestic violence which was shown at the conference and during the Road Show. The film will provide an ongoing tool to promote discussion on this topic into the future.

The Road Show provided opportunities for women to discuss the impact of violence they experienced during the occupation and from gender based violence. For some, it was their first opportunity to tell their stories, share their pain and provide each other solidarity.

The Girls' Conference was not planned by the steering committee but was an initiative of Alola's Education Team, who saw the potential and took the initiative to include District Based Conferences around the countryside in the lead up to the main conference. Each girl's Conference elected two representatives to attend the Women for Peace Conference. The students took this responsibility very seriously and contributed significantly to the open discussion with very carefully thought through questions and comments.



Some of the young secondary students who contributed to the lively forum discussions.

FINANCE REPORT

See attached financial report.

CONCLUSION

The 2nd International Women for Peace Conference held in Dili on March 5-6th 2009 was very successful, and was attended by more than 700 women. The conference provided a rare opportunity for Timorese women to emphasize their role in peace-building in Timor-Leste. The structure of the conference ensured that women were able to use different tools for their self-expression through papers, theatre, music, films and poetry. The women of Timor-Leste were able to discuss very important issues with other women from around the world in an open and comfortable

environment. The conference gave women of Timor-Leste a way to feel that their experiences are important, their concerns are being addressed, and that there are many people around the world who understand their plight.

In this conference participants were also faced with a challenging task of trying to find alternative solutions to often entrenched, long term issues. Lively discussions followed each presentation and activity, on topics of justice, gender-based violence, war, culture and the role of women in peace-building. The conference also provided an opportunity to further explore the *Platform For Action*, which was developed during the 2008 Timor-Leste Women's Third Congress, reflecting on actions and ideas that will take us forward into the future. Women can use this platform to build peace and stability in their families, for their children and grandchildren, their communities and their country.

Given the poor road system and transportation challenges, most of Timor-Leste remains hard to access. As a result, many communities do not receive adequate information, if any at all; on important issues, such as gender equality; community peace-building and the plight of other women in Timor-Leste. The Road Show gave people in remote areas an opportunity to learn about these topics and discuss them with their fellow community members. People appreciated and related to the artistic, non-confrontational ways of presenting sensitive topics, and the approach proved to be successful. There is a great need, as was recommended by the sucos, for these activities to continue, especially in other sucos that haven't had a chance to see the Road Show. Also, women expressed great interest in the conference itself, and wished that similar information was distributed on regular basis.

After years of conflict, the people of Timor-Leste are now presented with another challenge – how to continue maintaining peace and how to eradicate other forms of violence that continue to take place, such as violence against women. The 2nd International Women for Peace Conference and the Road Show contributed to overcoming this challenge by highlighting peaceful ways to resolve conflict and by promoting the role that women can play in maintaining peace.



Alola Staff in formal traditional dress to register participants on the first day of the conference.

APPENDIX A: ARTIST WORKSHOP PROGRAM

SECOND INTERNATIONAL WOMEN FOR PEACE CONFERENCE

DILI, TIMOR-LESTE, 2008

Outline Program for Women's Art
on 2nd week of February 2009

Week 1		
Time	Activities	Person Responsible
7-8/2/09	Arrival from abroad – first non formal meeting with the Timorese women's art at 8 of February 2009	
Day 1 9/2/09	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Registration, Introduction, Expectation - Share experience Lunch break <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Explore the Women's work on Peace building - Continuation of exploration - Closing first day 	Women's Arts and Committee Organizer
Day 2 10/2/09	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Discussion about the slogan for their art work - Explore the women's work on justice and peace building in Timor Leste and the world related to thematic Issues Lunch break <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - City tour to the history place of Dili - Preparation for the tour to the district 	Women's Arts and Committee Organizer
Day 3 11/2/09	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Start the tour to the district Dili- Manatuto-Baucau- - Viqueque- Same-Ainaro-Sua and back to Dili 	Women's Arts and Committee Organizer
Day 4 12/2/09	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continuation tour to the district Baucau- - Viqueque- Same- Ainaro- Suai and back to Dili 	Women's Arts and Committee Organizer
Day 5 13/2/09	- Continuation of the tour	
Day 6 14/2/09	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Back to Dili Performs the theatre, Sunset Poetry reading and music	
Day 7 15/2/09	Rest / deskansa	

Week 2		
Time	Activities	Person Responsible
Day 1 16/2/09	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Start with the project Painting, composing, writing, and sculpturing Lunch break <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continuation of the project 	Women's Arts and Committee Organizer
Day 2 17/2/09	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continuation of their work on Panting, written, drama and ect.	Women's Arts and Committee Organizer
Day 3 18/2/09	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continuation of their work on Panting, written, drama and ect.	Women's Arts and Committee Organizer
Day 4 19/2/09	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continuation of their work on Panting, written, drama and ect	Women's Arts and Committee Organizer
Day 5 20/2/09	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continuation of their work on - Panting, written, drama and ect 	Women's Arts and Committee Organizer

Day 6 21/2/09	- Performs the theatre, Sunset Poetry reading and music in Peace Park Dili	Women's Arts and Committee Organizer
Day 7 22/2/09	Rest	
Week 3		
Time	Activities	Person Responsible
Day 1 23/2/09	- Continuation of the project - Panting, photos, scrip written and theater Lunch break - On going with their activities	Women's Arts and Committee Organizer
Day 2 24/2/09	- On going activities as day before Panting, photos, scrip written and theater - on going activities as above lunch - On going project	Women's Arts and Committee Organizer Women's Arts and Committee organizer
Day 3 25/2/09	Preparation for the exhibition photos, painting	Women's Arts and Committee Organizer
Day 4 26/2/09	Preparation for Exhibition photos, painting. Performance of theater, music and poetry reading	Women's Arts and Committee Organizer
Day 5 27/2/09	Exhibition photos, painting. Performance of theater, Music and poetry reading at Jardin Rosa Muki Bonaparte	Women's Arts and Committee Organizer President and Prime Minister
Day 6 28/2/09	Exhibition photos, painting. Performance of theater, Music and poetry reading	
Day 7	Rest	

Week 4		
Time	Activities	Person Responsible
Day 1 01/3/09	Exhibition photos, painting. Performance of theater, Music and poetry reading	Women's Arts and Committee Organizer
Day 2 02/3/09	Exhibition photos, painting. Performance of theater, - Music and poetry reading	Women's Arts and Committee Organizer
Day 3 03/3/09	- Continuation of their work on Panting, written, drama and ect.	Women's Arts and Committee Organizer
Day 4 04/3/09	Exhibition photos, painting. Performance of theater, Music and poetry reading	Women's Arts and Committee Organizer
Day 5 05/3/09	2 nd International Conference Women for Peace Exhibition photos, painting. Performance of theater, Music and poetry reading	Women's Arts and Committee Organize
Day 6 06/3/09	2 nd International Conference Women for Peace and Performs the theater; Exhibition photos, painting. Performance of theater, Music and poetry reading	Women's Arts and Committee Organize
Day 7 07/2/09	Departure and Back home	Committee Organize

APPENDIX B – CONFERENCE PROGRAM

Insert final conference program here

APPENDIX C – DILI DECLARATION - TETUN

DEKLARASAUN DILI KONA BA FETO , PAS NO SEGURANSA 2009

Ami, feto nain 350 husi Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Brazil, Angola, Mozambique, Ireland, Germany, USA, Sweden, Spain, Canada, Australia, Portugal, Venezuela, UK, Norway, Indonesia no Timor-Leste halao surumutuk iha Ministeriu Estrangeiro iha Pantai Kelapa iha loron 5 no 6 de Marsu iha Segundu Konferensia Internasional Feto no Pas, ho tema “Feto hanesan agente kreativu ba harii pas”.

Esplora no fahe asuntu sira ne’ebe iha relasaun ba :

- Feto nia esperensia iha Harii Paz no Reconstrusaun
- Feto no Politika no foti Desizaun
- Feto no Haforte Ekonomia iha Sossiedade Pos-Konflitu
- Justisa no Solidaridade ba Feto Sobrevivente (Justisa ba Feto Sobrevivente ba Funu no Violensia Bazea ba Geneira no Relasaun entre justisa formal no tradisional)
- Impaktu husi Kultura ho Relijiaun ba Feto nia Direitu Reprodutivu no Berlaki
- Feto no Arte iha Sossiedade Pos-Konflitu

Konferensia ne’e afetadu ho klean husi esperensia espesifiku hosi terus, trauma no lakon liu husi funu no konflitu ho nia konsekuensia sira, violensia liu liu violensia seksual, oho ho halakon, terorismu, sunu no naok, muda obrigatoriu no hamlaha, detensaun no tortura, violasaun lei funu nian, julgamentu politiku, violensia seksual, violasaun direitu labarik nian, no violasaun ba direitu ekonomia no sosial, hadau tipu hotu ba siguransa ema individual, familia no komuniidade, lakon uma no prosperidade.

Naturesa konflitu nian muda ho dramatiku iha tinan pasadu. Maske tinan 100 liu ba, 90% vitima funu nian hanesan funu-nain no 10% deit mak ema sivil, agora kontestu iha kontrariu, ho 90% vitima ema sivil. Ita tenke bele ramata funu no halo paz loos, liu husi hasoru desafiu lia loos no rekonsiliaun, hanoin fali katak paz laos deit konaba laiha funu, maibe mos konaba siguransa humanu, konaba prenxe ema nia presiza humanu – sira nee inklui saude, dezvoltimentu ekonomia no sosial, governu demokratiku nomos haburas arte no kultura.

Justisa jeneru ne’e nu’udar buat ida nebee presiza ba paz rohan laek no dezvoltimentu. Justisa geneiru involve justisa diak liu ba vitima violensia seksual durante no depois konflitu, ihe rekomendasaun tolu: presiza reparasaun, presiza hapara impunidade, no presiza halibur no hakerek informasaun.

Halo fatin ba harii-paz: ema mai hamutuk, fo konesimentu sira nia laran moras no terus no koko atu hasoru nee, no aprende atu moris ho nee, importante ba harii paz no estabilidade nebee rohan laek.

Benefisiu husi paz estabale husi linha religiaun no etnika atu halo kontribuisaun signifkante ba prosesu paz. Obstakulus bot tebes ba feto atu dezvoltolve paz mak kontinua fo liman ba malu hanesan bin alin, la’os hanesan inimigu, la hare ba pozisaun feto ne’ebe mak kaer. Obstakulus bot liu mak oin sa dezvoltolve paz husi ita nia an rasik, atu enfrenta ba terus no oin sa bele sente laran kontente no servisu hamutuk. Ami iha alternativa sira oin sa atu hili atu luta ba la uza violensia. – atu oin sa komprienda husi perspektiva ema seluk.

Feto sira kontinua nafatin sira nia knar iha dezvoltolve paz rohan laek. Sira nia matenek no esforsu sira bele ajuda transforma sossiedade no nune’e mak ita presija attu fo oportunidade liu tan ba feto iha dezvoltolve politika no

ekonomia. Feto sira aktivu tebes iha ba ba dezvoltamentu ne'ebe sustentavel no pas rohan laek ne'ebe sei hare liu ba facilidade saude, uma, edukasaun no nesesidade publiku ba sidadaun hotu-hotu. Feto sira mos sai hanesan agente kreativu ba paz ho konsiensia katak prosesu sira ne'e ajuda neneik tebes atu muda ema nia hanoin no hahalok. Organizasaun sira ne'ebe servisu ba feto mos sai hanesan eransa ida nasaun sira nian.

Ho ida ne'e ami DEKLARA

Labele tan, To'o ONA. Husi lia fuan CHEGA, relatoriu husi CAVR Timor Leste ka Chega iha Portugues ne'ebe signifika "labele akontese tan, para ona, to'o ona, ne'ebe sai hanesan titulu ba relatoriu CAVR tanba ne'e akapta mensagen vitima nian ba CAVR, katak violasaun direitus humanus ne'ebe sira hetan labele admite tan atu akontese tan no dalan diak liu atu evita repetisaun mak la admite impunidade ba krime bazeia ba jeneru, krimi kontra umanidade no krime funu no dakwaan ne'ebe iha relasaun ho funu no konflitu sei bele liga ho medidas lei nasional no internasional no halo medidas reforma no dalan praktika atu fo kompensasun ba vitima/sobreviventes liu husi fo reparasaun, apoiu legal no medika, apoiu psikosiasal, protesun social no edukasaun no kapasitasaun oin sa buka moris no oportunidade ekonomia.

Konferensia ne'e ho lian ida no apoiu firme ba hanoin ba dame no dezvoltamentu sustentavel ne'ebe bele alkansa wainhira feto hetan knar importante no nune'e mak egigi ba aliansa ba civilizasaun hodi mobiliza moral, social no orsamentu ne'ebe dudu feto ba espasu kreativu atu lori transformasaun perperstiva jeneru iha halo no dezenvolve prosesu dame. .

Deklarasaun husi Konferensia ne'e ejiji nasaun hotu-hotu halo planu asaun ba implementa rezolusaun KS ONU nian 1325 no 1820 no reafirma importansia knar feto iha prevensaun no rezolusaun konflitu, negosiasaun dame, hari dame, aseguara dame, responde humanitarian, rekonstruksaun pos- konflitu. Partisipasaun feto iha esforsu hari dame lori perspektiva foun ba prosesu hari dame no aseguara inklusaun ne'ebe as liu, transparensia no halao rasik negosiasaun no akordu ba dame.

Konferensia ida ne'e rekonese katak pobreza no deprivasun, negasaun ba direitus umanus no direitu atu define no espresa talentu no aspirasaun sira rasik, diferensa kultural no relijiozu bele hasa'e konflitu violentu ne'ebe afeta feto no labarik feto sira, pas no trankuilidade, uma laran no komunidadade sira. Tanba ne'e Konferensia ida-ne'e husu ba Estadu no Gevernu sira atu tau atensaun partikular ba buat hirak ne'e no rezolve konflitu ne'ebe hamosu problema sira ne'e molok problema sira ne'e nakfera sai konflitu ativu. Konflitu sira ne'e bele evita liuhosi Gevernu ida ne'ebe nakloke no responsivu ba nesesidade sira ema hotu nian iha sira-nia territoriu laran, no gevernu ida-ne'ebe iha aprosimasaun fahe poder ne'ebe partisipatoria, tolerante, inklusivu ba governasaun demokratika, promove dezvoltamentu social, ekonomiku, politiku no kultural ne'ebe olistiku ba nia povu sira hodi garante seguransa pesoal, aihan no sosial nia povu nian.

Dili, 6 Marsu 2009.

APPENDIX D – SUMMARY OF THE AUSAID FUNDED ROAD SHOW

Project Title:	Road Show as a Follow-up to Women for Peace Conference
Organisation	Fundasaun Alola
Project Coordinator & Report	Filomena Barros Dos Reis
Project Duration	9th March – 12 th June 2009

PROJECT OUTLINE

The 2nd International Women for Peace Conference was held in Dili on 5 – 6 of March 2009 to promote sustainable peace in Timor-Leste, and recognise the role of women in peace building. As a follow up to the conference, we shared conference experiences and lessons with women in remote areas in the form of a road show. We organized the road show together with 10 women artists some of whom had attended the conference. Our talented artist group travelled to ALL 13 districts, choosing 3 sucos in each district in remote areas. The Road Show began on May 5th 2009 and the theme was **“Women as Creative Agents for Peace Building.”**

The road show’s goal was to disseminate conference outcomes in communities across Timor-Leste through theatre performances, poetry, films, music and discussions. Since most rural communities in Timor-Leste are still very traditional, and as low literacy is common, community-oriented theatre is a more effective medium than information dissemination via printed materials and radio messages.

OBJECTIVES

- To share the outcomes of the conference with women and their communities in remote areas.
- To raise public awareness of the role that women play and can play in building peace in their communities.
- To enhance the capacity of women in resolving conflict through a conflict transformation approach.

ARTISTS WORKSHOP AND CONFERENCE OUTCOMES

Many of the artists involved in the Road Show, had been involved in a four week workshop, prior to the international conference. Three international artists, two from Brazil and one from Angola, helped the women develop music, plays, artwork and sculptures. These women worked together to renovate the Rosa Muki Bonaparte Park and installed new sculptures, including a beautiful pebble pathway with the women’s signatures on the stones. (The park was made famous in 1998 when Fokupers led a group of women to confront Indonesian soldiers by placing white flowers in their guns.) A film was produced telling the story of the workshop and sculptures.

In addition the student project which collected stories in the lead up to the conference also produced a film about violence against women. Both these films were shown at the peace conference and were then available to show as part of the Road Show, along with the artwork, and theatre and song performances.

The conference was an important opportunity for women from across the region to hear and share the stories of ongoing struggle and achievements, as women described their efforts to address discrimination, domestic and political violence, restrictive religious laws and the impact of local conflicts on their daily lives.

In addition, before the Dili conference, Alola’s education team held a series of Girls’ Peace Conferences in the districts and young women from each of these conferences were elected to represent their communities at the Dili conference.

Finally in March in the week of International Women’s Day, hundreds of Timorese women joined women from Indonesia, Australia, Brazil, Angola, Fiji, Europe and many other countries to hear presentations from women from all levels of society. Government ministers, peace workers, women supporting survivors of domestic violence, artists and

representatives of the church and the community told their stories and shared their experiences in moving and inspiring ways. Tears of pain and joy were shared as women from conflict areas in Timor and other parts of the world told their stories.

The most significant thread that wove through all the presentations was the need for understanding, love, grace and forgiveness at all levels of society if real peace is to be found. Despite women describing horrendous stories of violence and discrimination, the message was never about anger or revenge but always about finding new ways to share knowledge, increase understanding and improve communication. The road show aimed to share these same messages to women who could not travel to Dili to participate in the conference.

PREPARATION PHASE

In order to reflect the results of the conference, the team held 4 meetings with the artists prior to travelling. They were given a full briefing on conference results. Based on the briefing, our artist group developed performance pieces (5 theatre pieces and 3 poems) around the following themes:

- Impact of culture on women's rights and health;
- Justice for women in regards to sexual violence and other forms of violence;
- Using conflict transformation approach in problem solving;
- Women's creativity in achieving economic independence;
- Women in peace building.



PROMOTIONAL MATERIAL

To promote the conference, 2000 brochures and 800 posters were produced for the Road Show and distributed in each community after the performance. In addition, T-shirts were given to the artists to promote conference identity and to ensure their safety.

We had a unique collaboration opportunity with community leaders (Chefe do Sucos, elders, youth leaders) and community police to distribute information about the conference and peace building. The brochures carried simple but clear messages about the important role of women

GEOGRAPHIC REACH OF THE ROAD SHOW

Through our district contacts, including Alola's District Support Workers, Education and Rede Feto women's networks, we identified which sucos would participate, with a preference for more remote ones. We collaborated with 39 Chefe do Sucos in all 13 districts to schedule performances in their sucos. The group travelled for 42 days around the country and was received very positively.

The artists with banners of Road Show (left)





ROAD SHOW THEMES

Given that most topics were sensitive in nature, a facilitator, Elda Barros, was recruited and trained to facilitate discussions following each performance. Many women suffered in the conflict during the Indonesian occupation, when sexual, physical and psychological violence was committed against them. For most women, these issues have not been addressed, especially for women in rural areas. Our Road Show helped them to see that their experiences are important and can be discussed in creative and culturally sensitive ways via theatre, music and poetry.

Many women and girls had tears in their eyes when they watched our performances, and asked questions during the discussion. In suco Uma Wain Kraik (Viqueque), suco Lisapata-Hatolia (Ermera) and many other areas, community members asked questions about why women in Timor-Leste are still suffering and experiencing great injustices every day. Women helped their men and their country to fight for independence, while being mothers and sisters, and taking care of their children and families. The question of why women's roles in the resistance were not being fully recognized was brought up during the discussions.



The Road Show also encouraged community members to talk about sexual violence against women through showing a heart-breaking piece about a young woman who had to make a decision about the future of her unborn child. Although a very sensitive and challenging topic, many women and men responded positively and with great interest, prompting much discussion. The issue of sexual violence is not openly talked about in traditional Timorese communities, yet it is something that women face everyday.



People responded very positively in general to our Road Show and asked us to return, as they felt that one day was not enough. Participation was very high, with about 80 percent of community participation for each show. Women, men, elders and youth came to our performances.

Throughout our performances, we emphasized the role that women play in their communities. As mothers,

caregivers and mediators, women are natural peace-builders. We encouraged each suco residents to talk about particular roles women play in their communities, and why the women should be given greater roles in the community. Women are also natural mediators, as we demonstrated through one of our plays. The play showed two women arguing and how they found a way to reconciliation without resorting to violence. This play used humour and involved women working in the field, something local people enjoyed and related to.

The idea of resolving conflict with a conflict transformation approach was communicated in ways that traditional Timorese people understood.



The performance of impact of culture on women rights and health; Madalena Sousa, who is a 65 year old artist, is playing harmonica for the community. And Madalena is the oldest among the performers.

CHALLENGES

The Road Show involved difficult travelling and a rigorous schedule with low salaries, which made it hard for us to find volunteer artists. In addition, they only had 3 days in each district to cover many Sucos. Each Suco was given a small sum of money to provide snacks, but some Sucos asked for more money.

Language is also always a challenge across all the 13 districts as many people have a limited understanding Tetun and require translation into their local languages. However much of the performance could go beyond language to convey the message.



Elda Barros, right, leads the discussion between communities after the performance from the artists.



Young people came to see the artist's performances

FINANCE

See attached financial report.

CONCLUSION

Given poor road system and transportation challenges, most of Timor-Leste remains hard to access. As a result, many communities do not receive adequate information, if any at all, on important issues, such as gender equality, community peace-building and how the plight of women in Timor-Leste is being addressed at an international level (Women for Peace Conference). The Road Show gave people in remote areas an opportunity to learn about these topics and discuss them with their fellow community members. People appreciated and related to artistic, non-confrontational ways of presenting sensitive topics, and as such, proved to be immensely successful. As was recommended by the sucos, there is a great need for these activities to continue, especially in other sucos that haven't had a chance to see our Road Show. Also, women expressed great interest in the conference itself, and wished that similar information was distributed on regular basis.

After years of conflict, the people of Timor-Leste are now presented with another challenge – how to continue maintaining peace and how to eradicate other forms of violence that cor violence against women. *Taking a break on the road* overcoming this challenge play and can play in maintaining peace.



Ways in conflict resolution and the role women



Images from the performances



SCHEDULE OF PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Date and/or location	Description of activity
April 13, 2009	Planning and drafting the Road Show Calendar began
April 14, 2009	Brochure prepared and drafted; facilitator identified and recruited
April 15 - 27, 2009	Meeting with artists and briefing, banners, brochure and poster for Road Show
May 5 - 8, 2009	Road Show in Suco Liu Rai, Aileu; Suco Asumano, Remexio; and Suco Madabeno, Laulara.
May 14 - 17, 2009	Road Show in Suco Hola Rua, Same; Suco Betano, Same; and Suco Daisua, Same
May 18 - 24, 2009	Road Show in Suco Suai Kamanasa; Suco Suai Loro; Suco Matai, Mauqatar-Suai; Suco Kasa, Ainaro; Suco Ainaro Atas, Ainaro; and Suco Hohorai Ki'ik, Maubessi
May 26 - June 6, 2009	Road Show in Suco Holsa, Maliana; Suco Meligo, Kailako; Suco Atudara, Kailako; Suco Ailelo, Haolia-Ermera; Suco Fatubolu & Suco Lisapata, Hatolia-Ermera; Suco Fatukero, Gleno-Ermera; Suco Tibar, Bazartete-Liquica; Suco Metagou, Bazartete-Liquica; Suco Leorema, Liquica; Suco Dare - Dili; Suco Camea, Cristo Rei; and Suco Hera, Cristo Rei.
June 8 - 20, 2009	Road Show in Suco Ratahu Wetali, Viqueque; Suco Uma Wain Kraik, Viqueque; Suco Adarai, Uatolari-Viqueque; Suco Fuiluro, Lospalos; Suco Parlamento, Moro; Aldeia Kartini, Fuiluro; Lospalos; Suco Soba, Laga; Suco Bucoli, Baucau; Suco Vemasse Vili, Vemasse-Baucau; Suco Kairui, Laleia; Suco
June 25 - 29, 2009	Road Show in Suco Bobocae, Oesilo, Oecusse; Suco Usitasae, Oesilo-Oecusse; and Suco Cunha, Pante Makasar-Oecusse





On the way to Enclave Oecusse and in Indonesia border





The community in Suco Bobocase and Suco Cunha Oecusse has express their feelings after the theatre was performed by the artists in relation to the impact of culture on women rights and health and also Justice for women.



The community and the traditional leaders in Bobocase and Usitasae give their comment after the theatre performed and a one a woman are brave to share her experience as victim of sexual assault.

