



# 2022

ANNUAL REPORT



# FUNDASAUN ALOLA

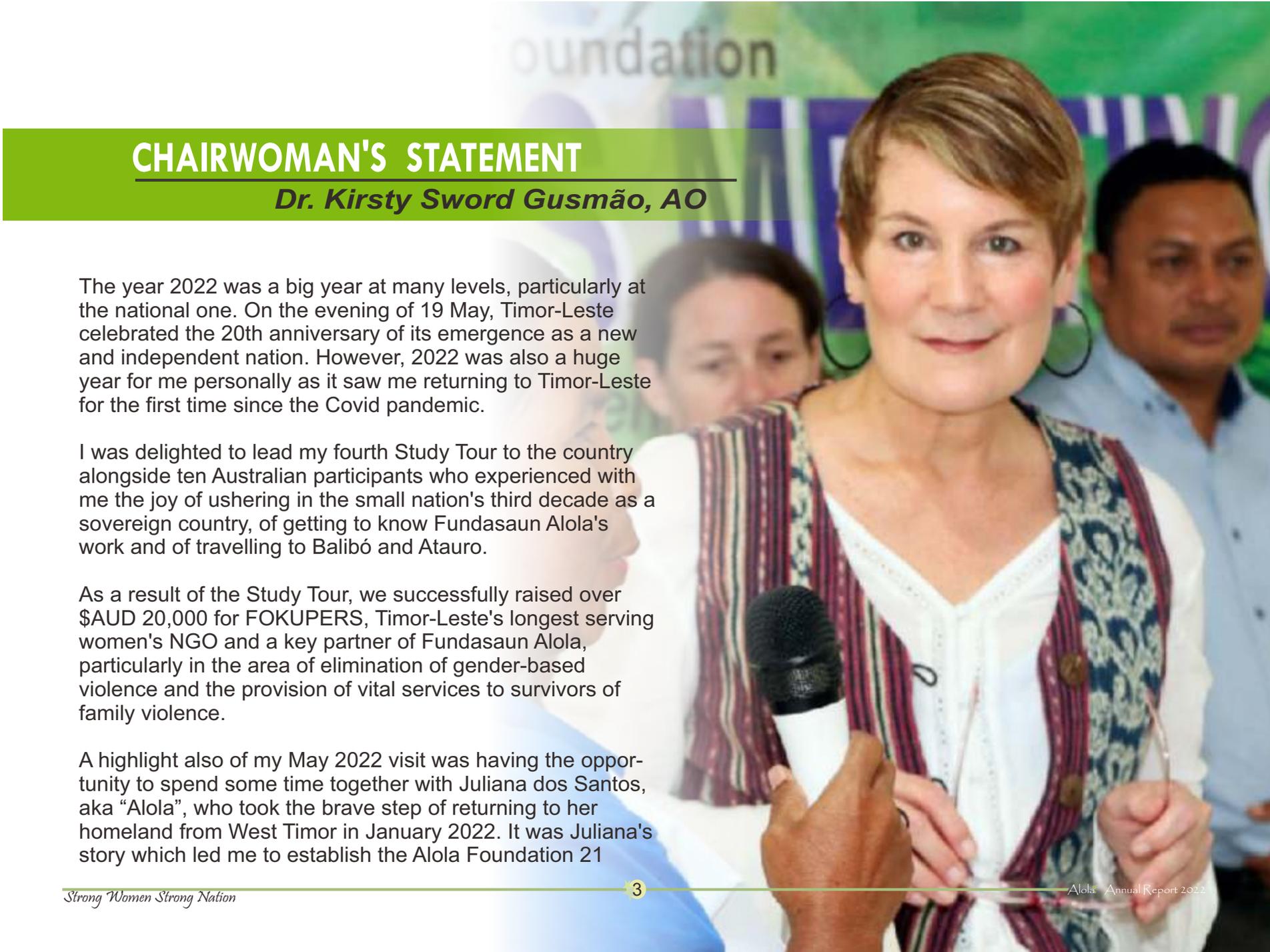
**“Strong Women Strong Nation- Feto Forte Nasaun Forte”**  
**WOMEN OF TIMOR-LESTE HAVE EQUAL STATUS IN ALL ASPECT OF LIFE**  
 (Access, participation, role in decision making, enjoyment of benefits) THROUGH EDUCATION,  
 ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT HEALTH AND COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

### 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"> <li>• Campaign for women's human rights</li> <li>• Strengthen women's leadership</li> <li>• Strengthen networks with all partners</li> <li>• Empower women in all areas in municipalities</li> <li>• Assist women to access information and understand their rights.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduction of IMR, MMR, MMBR and Under 5 child malnutrition rate</li> <li>• Promotion of exclusive breast-feeding and complementary feeding (through community based groups at the village level)</li> <li>• Empower community-based groups to support MCH at the village level</li> <li>• Support MoH to implement Nutrition and MCH Program</li> <li>• Program collaboration with international and government partners at national and district level</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote the importance of education with whole community involvement</li> <li>• Provide training to improve teachers' teaching ability</li> <li>• Resource development in Tetun and Portuguese and using local resources</li> <li>• Work collaboratively with MoE and other education organizations to develop holistic education program</li> <li>• Expand Education opportunities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve the status of women in enterprise</li> <li>• Increase income generating opportunities</li> <li>• Promote economic independence for women</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish responsive system from program management and evaluation</li> <li>• Ensure transparency and accountability in financial management</li> <li>• Ensure quality facilities' management and process</li> <li>• Maintain endowment funds for future programs</li> <li>• Performance appraisals annually and follow up on staff professional development</li> <li>• Strong HR systems</li> <li>• Continue to promote family friendly workspace</li> </ul>



## CHAIRWOMAN'S STATEMENT

*Dr. Kirsty Sword Gusmão, AO*

The year 2022 was a big year at many levels, particularly at the national one. On the evening of 19 May, Timor-Leste celebrated the 20th anniversary of its emergence as a new and independent nation. However, 2022 was also a huge year for me personally as it saw me returning to Timor-Leste for the first time since the Covid pandemic.

I was delighted to lead my fourth Study Tour to the country alongside ten Australian participants who experienced with me the joy of ushering in the small nation's third decade as a sovereign country, of getting to know Fundasaun Alola's work and of travelling to Balibó and Atauro.

As a result of the Study Tour, we successfully raised over \$AUD 20,000 for FOKUPERS, Timor-Leste's longest serving women's NGO and a key partner of Fundasaun Alola, particularly in the area of elimination of gender-based violence and the provision of vital services to survivors of family violence.

A highlight also of my May 2022 visit was having the opportunity to spend some time together with Juliana dos Santos, aka "Alola", who took the brave step of returning to her homeland from West Timor in January 2022. It was Juliana's story which led me to establish the Alola Foundation 21



years ago and today the tale of her courageous flight from suffering and oppression is a source of inspiration to countless women and girls across the country. You can read more about her journey to freedom in her beloved homeland (<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2022-04-03/timor-kidnap-victim-escapes-20-years-later/100867980>)

As Juliana dos Santos and Timor-Leste embark on a new chapter, Fundasaun Alola will continue to stand beside all of the courageous and resilient women of the country and support them to live a life of independence and dignity. The ongoing encouragement, financial backing and championing of friends inside and outside the country are vital to our organisation in the achievement of our mission of promoting women's rights and equal access to quality health and education services, economic independence and political leadership.

Thank you for walking with us!

  
Kirsty Sword Gusmão

# CEO's REMARKS

*Maria Imaculada Guterres*

Dear Donors, Partners and Friends,

The Year 2022 has been a special year for Fundasaun Alola as, besides celebrating our 21st anniversary, the foundation has reaffirmed its existence by renewing its Statutes to stand as a strong organization promoting women and children's rights. In order to enhance our mission to better serve women and children, over the course of the year, we have improved our organizational capacity by developing new policies and establishing a new department of Monitoring & Evaluation as well as Procurement. The objectives of these new policies and services is to support and guide the organization towards better governance and to improve its program implementation in the field.

To guarantee the effectiveness and quality of the comprehensive programs in responding to the needs of women and children as our target beneficiaries and center of the program implementation, during the year of 2022 the foundation has established a consultative council with an important mission of providing support and advice directly on the organization's strategic plan as well as the development of its programs as set forth in the new Statutes.

In 2022, we remained dedicated to the task of promoting the wellbeing of women and children in Timor-Leste, delivering programs in adherence to the organisation's strategic plan for Maternal and Child Health, Education, Economic Empowerment and Advocacy. Therefore, I'm



delighted to share with you Fundasaun Alola's 2022 Annual report of which will provide you with a snapshot of some of our successes during the past year.

The achievements of 2022 are the result of Alola's strong team work, management and as the contributions of board members, all of whom work as a solid and collaborative team..

Finally, we recognize that this progress would of course not have been possible without the support of our donors, partners and friends, including the Alola Australia team that continue to support our work. I wish to take this opportunity to express my deepest appreciation and gratitude for your support and collaboration over the past year.

We have great confidence that you will all join with us and remain partners as we continue to move forward to realise our motto: "Strong Women, Strong Nation" to become a reality for Timor-Leste's women and children.

"Together we are strong - Strong Women, Strong Nation"

Your sincerely,

**Maria Guterres**  
Chief Executive Officer Fundasaun Alola

# MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH PROGRAM

Improving Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (MNCH) and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) are reflected in the Global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):

- **GOAL 2:** Includes Ensure Access To Nutritious And Sufficient Food.
- **GOAL 3:** Includes Reduce Maternal Mortality, And End Preventable Deaths Of Newborns And Children Under Five.
- **GOAL 6:** Includes Achieve Universal Access To Adequate Sanitation.

The Timor-Leste Strategic Development Plan (SDP) is aligned with the SDGs, and Alola Foundation's Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Program activities reflect both the Global SDGs and the national SDP. In addition, MCH Program is a leader in raising awareness and support for womens' cancers through the HALIKU Sub Program. The Alola MCH activities are delivered within government Health Facilities (Facility-Based) and at the community level (Community-Based).

The MCH program works closely with Health Facilities including the hospitals in Dili, Baucau and Maubise, and Oecusse. Activities focus on newborn care, skin-to-skin contact between post-partum mothers and her new born babies, promoting breastfeeding, providing counselling on timely complementary feeding for children under two years old, identification and referral of children under five years old who suffered from malnourish at both village and hamlet level including refer pregnant women to safe delivery at nearby health facility.



The MCH Community-Based activities focus on establishing Mother Support Groups (MSG) and Suco Hadomi Inan ho Oan (Village Loves Mothers and Babies) (SHIO) groups. The groups holding monthly meetings, conducting health promotion package film shows, complementary cooking food demonstrations, and community discussions focusing on birth preparedness plans for existing groups, and nutrition for new groups, as well as providing counselling at Health Facilities including health posts as well as at SISCa posts.

In 2022, MSG/SHIO were active in six municipalities and included 669 members, who were important points of referral for mother and children into the nearby health facilities which existed in their area of living.

## HEALTH FACILITY-BASED ACTIVITIES

The Facility-Based activities were delivered in maternity, perinatology, and paediatric rooms at Dili National hospital and regional hospitals in Baucau, Maubise, and Oecusse.

In 2022, the MCH hospital Liaison Officers (HLOs) supported mothers with skin-to-skin contact for newborn babies, initiating first breastfeeding, and supported post-partum mothers with breastfeeding position, and attachment.

In the paediatrics room, the HLOs provided counselling to the families of young child on the importance of breastmilk, introducing local nutritional foods after babies reach 6 months, and personal hygiene care for babies and children.

NUMBER OF BENEFICIARIES	
Mothers who delivered in the hospital at Maternity	7,007
Number of babies that received skin-to skin contact support from Hospital Liaison Officer (HLO)	1,059
Number of mothers who received breastfeeding counseling	14,863
Number of families that received breastfeeding counseling	11,932
Post-partum mothers received support on breastfeed problems by HLO	256
Number of children accessed play room center	8,777



### Playroom for children:

In 2022, the playroom at Baucau Hospital was effective in raising the spirits of children during their hospital stay. The playroom served as a therapeutic way to reduce children's anxiety and fears from admission to discharge. Hospital Playroom Officers provided entertainment for children, including painting, playing with toys, singing songs, drawing, reading *Lafaek* magazine, watching cartoons, and breastfeeding films, reaching 8,777 children. This helped the children to relax which aided their recovery. In addition, 5,908 visiting parents and family members received breastfeeding and complementary feeding counselling in the playrooms.

## COMMUNITY-BASED PROGRAM

### MSG/SHIO

In 2022, the Community-Based program, achieved the establishment of 45 MSG/SHIO groups with 669 members in six villages. This concept aimed to raise community awareness about birth preparedness, recognize danger signs during pregnancy, childbirth, and postpartum, and assist and support women with obstetric complications by organizing transport and referral to Health Facilities.

In addition, The Community-Based Program working in partnership with UNICEF and Ministry of Health built the capacity of health workers (MSG Focal Points) and MSG/SHIO members through Infant Young Child Feeding (IYCF) training in municipalities. The MCH team also provided several information session on reproductive health, family planning, safe delivery, maternal and child nutritional health, including breastfeeding and breast and cervical cancer, for parents and caregivers. To contribute to reducing malnutrition within the community, the Alola MCH team implemented social behaviour change communication initiatives (SBCC) in nutrition-integrated primary MNCH and WASH care practices in identified municipalities. Additionally, within the year of 2022,

The Alola MCH Program through its women's cancer of HALIKU sub-program collaborated with the Ministry of Health to raise awareness on women's cancer, early detection, referral of patients to Dili National Hospital and provide support to vulnerable patients.

### Strengthen the existing community groups MSG/SHIO in municipalities:

In 2022, 669 MSG/SHIO members were actively involved in 45 groups across six municipalities. Each year, MCH initiates new MSG/SHIO groups in villages of highest need. In 2022, the team established nine new groups in Baucau, Manatutu, and Manufahi municipalities. The team initially conducted a socialization activity with community leaders to discuss the possibility of forming a MSG/SHIO group and identify potential volunteer members. The members then participated in Baseline Survey Training, a Participatory Problem Analysis workshop (PPA), and four-days training on IYCF and Basic Safe Motherhood, Family Planning, and Community Management of Acute Malnutrition (CMAM). A total of 144 members participated in the training (F: 93 and 51:M).



## Build the capacity of health care workers (MSG Focal point) and MSG groups in municipality – IYCF training for Health Care Workers and MSG groups in municipalities:

Durante tinan 2022, The MCH Program of Fundasaun Alola continued its collaboration with the National Institute for Health to organize a four-day middle-level trainer on IYCF for 153 health care worker representatives from various health centers and health posts. The objective of the training was to equip health care workers with the necessary skills to train MSG members in their respective villages. In 2022, a total of 776 MSG/SHIO members (F: 645 and M: 131) from Dili and Aileu municipalities participated in the IYCF training facilitated by the MCH staff and health workers. This activity was supported by UNICEF in collaboration with Ministry of Health.

### Health Promotion Packages:

In 2022, the MCH staff delivered Health Promotion Packages including cooking demonstrations, community discussions, monthly meetings, breastfeeding film shows, SHIO counselling at Community Health Centres and Health Posts, and household visits. The objective of the activities are to raise awareness about the importance of nutrition for mothers' and children's health. The cooking demonstrations session showcased local nutritious foods for mother and children's health and encourage them to consume it, while the film shows session focused on basic safe motherhood practices and the significance of breastfeeding.

These activities were conducted in Aileu, Baucau, Dili, Liquica, Manufahi, and Manatutu municipalities, with a total of 26,805 participants attending the sessions, including children under five years old who participated in cooking demonstrations. The SHIO members also took Middle-Upper Arm Circumference measurements (MUAC) for pregnant and lactating women and children under five to determine their nutritional status. The MUAC identified 34 pregnant or lactating women, and 134 infants and children under 5 years who were malnourished. They were immediately provided with counselling and referral to community health posts for treatment.



**Total beneficiaries at Health Promotion Attendees:**

BENEFICIARIES	TOTAL
Pregnant women	1,457
Lactating women	3,324
Caregivers	6,667
Community	3,592
Children (0-59 months)	11,765
<b>Total</b>	<b>26,805</b>

SHIO members reported that they had referred 63 pregnant women to Health Facilities for safe delivery, and 10 sick children for treatment. Additionally, 384 maternity packs were distributed through health facilities in Ainaro and the hospitals in Maubisse, Aileu, Manufahi, Baucau, and Liquica.

**Celebration of World Breastfeeding Week - Healthy Baby Contest:**

The MCH team, together with the MSG/SHIO groups, conducted World Breastfeeding Week activities in Aileu, Manufahi, and Dili municipalities in August 2022 with the national theme *"Educate the family to support the mother*

**Health Promotion at Schools:**

In June 2022, the MCH team facilitated health promotions for school students (aged under 10, and 10-19 years). The sessions focused on hand hygiene to encourage proper handwashing practices. The activity was attended by 506 students (F: 270 and M: 236) from 10 schools in Dili municipality.

**SHIO/MSG monthly monitoring meetings and Maternity Packs Distribution:**

With the year of 2022, the SHIO groups (669 members) held regular monthly meetings in Aileu, Baucau, Dili, Liquica, Manufahi and Manatutu municipalities from February to December 2022. The MCH team were able to follow up, monitor, and supervise the SHIO members' counselling activities, and collect data on referrals and counselling conducted at community health posts.

During meetings,



Maternity Packs	
Number of Beneficiaries	
TOTAL	384



to breastfeed." The activities involved a total of 4,079 participants including pregnant and lactating women, community members (caregivers), local authorities, and babies and children.

During the event, 660 infants between 6 and 24 months participated in a Healthy Baby Contest. The criteria for winning the contest were exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months, being born at a health facility or attended by a Skilled Birth Attendant, having a healthy regular weight, full immunization, and good hygiene. A total of 287 children were selected as healthy baby winners (F:141 and M:122) by the MCH team and local health facility representatives.

### Counselling to pregnant and lactating women in Health Facilities:

In 2022, MSG/SHIO volunteers provided counselling to 6,164 women (2,726 pregnant and 3,438 lactating) who visited Health Facilities. Counselling activities were carried out monthly at community health posts, Health Centers, and during home visits. The counselling promoted exclusive breastfeeding for the first 6 months and timely complementary food and feeding, prevention of malnutrition, promoted antenatal and post natal care, and encouraged routine vaccinations for children under five years old. The counselling sessions took place in 62 villages in Baucau, Dili, Liquica, Manufahi, and Aileu municipalities.

**Male/father engagement:** From October to December 2022, four father's engagement meetings were held in targeted villages in Manatuto municipality, with 47 participants (F: 9 and M: 38). The topics discussed included family expectations, the impact of fathers, household expenditure, health check-ups for spouses and children, family planning, gender, and non-violence.



### Raising parents' awareness about maternal and child health, family planning, nutrition, and women's cancer:

The MCH team delivered workshops in Dotik and Uma Berloik villages in Manufahi municipality to increase parents knowledge about reproductive health, family planning, safe delivery, maternal and child nutritional health including breastfeeding, and breast and cervical cancer. The workshop provided valuable information to 97 participants (F: 51 and M: 46).

### Supporting the sustainability of the SHIO groups :

In 2022, the Alola MCH team graduated four SHIO groups established over three years (two groups in Liquica and two in Aileu). These SHIO groups will continue to support health workers by providing counselling to pregnant and lactating mothers, and support referrals for mother and children within their village. In Liquica, before graduation, a needs assessment for the SHIO group resulted in the Alola Economic Empowerment Program team providing business training to members, equipping them with the skills to manage a Saving and Loans activity that will generate income for the group to meet expenses, such as transport for women in labour to get to a health facility in an emergency.



### Implementing social behaviour change communication (SBCC) initiatives on key care practices of nutrition-integrated MNCH and WASH

In 2022, the MCH team and health workers followed-up previous activities in Dili municipality to improve sanitation facilities and hygiene practices. Two years earlier, the project baseline survey had identified 1,502 Dili households did not have toilets, and 608 households had toilets but did not have septic tank access.

Follow up in 2022 found that 1,242 households out of 1,502 had now built toilets and were using them, while 110 households were constructing dug pit latrines. Another 425 households had built septic tanks and 32 households used shared toilets. A further 128 households had not started due to economic issues, land and water issues.

According to the plan to declare Dili as Open Defecation Free (ODF) / Area La Soe Foer Boot Arbiru (ALFA) in 2022, periodic review took place twice between the first and second quarter. The reviews involved participation of the Municipality Health Service (MHS) in administrative post level, representatives of the municipality authority, health workers from Community Health Centres in Nain Feto, Dom Aleixo and Cristo Rei, as well as local village authorities. Representatives from municipality and local authorities convinced communities to build their toilets with septic tanks.

The result was a joint plan to set a verification schedule for April 2022. During April and May 2022 the team conducted verification in five villages. As a result, two villages of Madohi and Balibar achieved ODF status and will celebrate and be declared as an ODF/ALFA in 2023.

## HALIKU - RAISE AWARENESS, PROVIDE SUPPORT AND REFERRAL FOR WOMEN'S CANCER

Alola Foundation's HALIKU project continued to work with the Ministry of Health through National Breast Cancer Committee based at the National Hospital.

Several activities were undertaken in Dili including celebration of HALIKU's 8th anniversary, events during Pink October (breast cancer month) to raise awareness on the importance of women's cancer prevention and early detection for the target groups especially for women and girls, including health workers and some international agencies. In addition, the HALIKU team continued to educate communities about breast cancer in rural areas, and mini workshops for secondary students and university students in Dili. These activities reached 742 participants.

The HALIKU team also provided direct support to vulnerable patients, such as supply of mastectomy bras and prosthesis, as well as practical support for 25 patients referred to Dili National Hospital for diagnostic services and treatment. as and prosthesis, as well as practical support for 25 patients referred to Dili National Hospital for diagnostic services or treatment.



# EDUCATION PROGRAM

## Overview of Education Program in 2022

The objective of the Education Program is to increase access to and quality of education in Timor-Leste. The program supports teachers, students, children and communities to gain skills and knowledge to fulfil their goals.

Projects in 2022 comprised Scholarships, Teacher Training, Mobile Library and Community-Based Preschools. The projects are implemented in close collaboration with key partners such as the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports (MoEYS), the National Institute for Training of Teachers and Education Professionals (INFORDEPE), and other educational organizations and institutions.

The achievements in 2022 are as follows:



## 1. Scholarship Project

The Scholarship Project supports primary, secondary school, Technical Vocational, and university students throughout Timor-Leste. This support has enabled vulnerable students to continue and finalize their studies up to the university level.

In 2022 the project facilitated scholarships to 223 awardees (F: 136 and M: 87), including 3 female students with disabilities studying at university. The scholarships were provided by individual donors, agencies, Friendship Committees, and Alola Australia. 20 university students (F: 10 and M: 10) were able to receive laptops from their donors (Bendigo Maubisse Friendship Committee, Wangaratta Friends of Lacluta, and



Indigo Shire Atauro Island Friendship Committee) to support their study. Congratulations to our 7 scholarship students (F: 5 and M: 2) who graduated in 2022 from universities in Timor-Leste.

The Alola team administers students' monthly allowance and tuition fees. The team maintains regular communication between donors and the students including following up on students' learning progress through visits to family and communicating with student's parents.



## 2. Teacher Training Project

In 2022 the Teacher Training Project managed Leadership Support through Mentoring and Learning (in Tetum Apoiu Lideransa liuhusi Mentoria no Aprendizajen – ALMA) funded by the Australian Embassy in Timor-Leste.

The ALMA project supports local mentors and school leaders in Covalima municipality to conduct classroom observation and organize sharing sessions between teachers and school leaders (GTP – Grupo Trabalho Professores and GTL – Grupo Trabalho Lideranca). The project benefited 29 Basic schools and 74 school teachers and leaders (F: 28 and M: 46).

During the period ALMA project administered local mentors' monthly allowance from phases 1 to 4 and 6 and administered National mentors' monthly allowance.

The following table shows details:

Lider Eskola & Manorin		Mentor Lokál		Mantor Nasionál	
M	F	M	F	M	F
46	28	22	12	4	0
TOTAL		34		4	

## 3. Mobile Library Project

In 2022 the Mobile Library Project carried out reading activities in 12 centres across Manatuto municipality with financial support from Child Fund Timor-Leste. During the period the project collaborated with Peer Tutors and Parents Tutors in facilitated reading activities for 248 children (Girls: 142 and Boys: 106).

Table 4 Carry Over Centers from previous FY 2021

No	Sentru ne'ebé existe husi tinan 2021	Sentru ne'ebé selesionadu ba intervensaun digital iha tinan 2022
1	Mantane	Bua
2	Cera	Raebutigueon
3	Hatuconan	Diric-Un
4	Labitin	Funar
5	Caunua	
6	Bahareduk	
7	Orlalan	
8	Batara	

The Project team conducted a reading campaign for parents and local leaders, with a total of 158 participants (F: 94 and M: 64). The main aim of the campaign was to encourage parents to read with their children, to improve their literacy skills.

In addition to reading activities in reading centres, the Mobile Library team collaborated with the Office of the President of Timor-Leste conducting book fair activities and reading



activities for children in Liquica, Viqueque, Baucau, and Atauro. The Mobile Library van was packed with reading resources including story books, balls, and musical instruments. The van visited the President's office twice a month for two hours each visit. 150 (M: 61 and G: 89) Basic school students participated in the activities; students were enthusiastic on the educational activities and thus will be able to improve their literacy and numeracy abilities.

#### 4. Community-Based Preschools Project



In 2022 the Community-Based Preschool (CBPS) Project supported community-based preschools (home-based and centre-based) in isolated rural areas of Ermera and Viqueque municipalities. In the beginning of academic year, the Community Based Preschool project also recruited 3 project staff (1 Project Coordinator, 1 Program Officer for Viqueque and 1 Field Officer for Uatulari, Viqueque) who will take up their positions in 2022.

The team continued to manage 101 centers facilitated by 187 trained local facilitators. The 9 Education Community-Based Project staffs regularly monitored the preschools in both municipalities. A total of 2,858 preschool students (F: 1430 and M: 1428) were enrolled and attended the learning activities in 2022.

The project is funded by the New Zealand Embassy through UNICEF Timor-Leste. Each preschool is managed by a School Management Committee with the total of 152 (F: 26 and M: 126) School Management Committee members in Ermera and Viqueque municipalities. The Community Based Preschool project provides training to School Management Committee on Child Development, the training was conducted each year with different topics.

A positive preschool experience provides a foundation for students' successful transition to basic education. By the end of 2022 year, 913 (G: 453 and B: 460) preschool students had graduated from Ermera and Viqueque municipalities.

Community-Based Preschool Data 2022:  
Table 5 list & 6 Pre School Graduate students in 2022

Municipiu	Eskola		Estudante		Fasilitator		Postu Administrativu
	Home Based	Centre Based	M	F	M	F	
Ermera	19	39	965	921	24	86	Railaco, Gleno, Atsabe, Letefoho & Hatulia
Viqueque	16	27	463	509	17	60	Ossu & Uatulari
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>101</b>		<b>2858</b>		<b>187</b>		<b>7</b>

## A SUCCESS STORY

### SCHOLARSHIP VALUABLE CHANCE TO

Agosto dos Santos comes from Nunumoge, an Ainaro Municipality. He successfully supported all

school by growing vegetables. However, she was unable to send them to university due to financial constraints.

In 2017, Agosto received financial support (scholarship) from the Ballarat Friends of Ainaro Health Group (BFAHG) through Fundasaun Alola. This support allowed him to continue his studies at the Pharmacy Department of Instituto Ciência da Saúde (ICS) Díli.

After four years of dedication and hard work, he successfully completed his university studies and eagerly awaited the graduation schedule. Unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 disrupted the learning process and related activities, including the graduation schedule. Despite these challenges, he found a way to contribute to the community by working as a logistic staff at SAMES. In this role, he significantly contributed to the distribution of Covid-19 prevention equipment to healthcare centers and hospitals throughout Timor Leste. Additionally, he managed to support his family during the lockdown by earning a steady income.

“I would like to express my utmost gratitude to the donor (BFAHG), and the Alola Foundation team for their unwavering support that has enabled me to complete my study in 2021 and secure employment as a pharmacist at Dili Medical Center (DMC). Your invaluable assistance has allowed me to provide for my family, particularly my mother, and assist my siblings in pursuing their education at UNTL and UNPAZ. I am truly grateful for your generosity and the positive impact it has had on my life and those of my loved ones”.



### PROGRAMS OFFER STUDENTS A ACHIEVE THEIR GOALS

from a vulnerable family in Suco administrative post in Hatubuilico and mother, who is a widow, has eight of her children and sent them to



## ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM

The Women's Economic Empowerment Program (EEP) has two sub programs they are:

- 1) Handcraft Development & Culture Preservation
- 2) Development Of Women's Livelihoods.

The program goals are: to strengthen women's economic participation in order to improve the status of women in small business; increase opportunities to earn an income; promote the economic independence of women; and culture preservation.

The program achievements in 2022 were: increased skills in business and financial literacy; product quality improvement; greater market opportunities; linking the program with a micro finance institution for economic support to sustain livelihoods.

## Alola Annual Fair

In 2022, the EEP continued to provide capacity building and market opportunities for women artisans in Timor-Leste. The project led to increased income for women artisans and at the same time promoted Timorese cultural identity. Prior to the market event, the EEP held a one day workshop on improving the quality of products, especially the use of natural dyes in traditional fabrics, product diversification training, and basic marketing education for 16 women representatives from the municipalities of Ainaro, Baucau, Bobonaro, Dili, Liquiça and Viqueque. In learning about natural dyeing the participants practiced using natural colours such as; blue, green, yellow and chocolate.



There were 3 steps in making the natural dye; 1) Introduction to the natural dyeing process and learning how to identify plant species based on their existing colour, 2) Collect the dye plants i.e. leaves, barks and roots as the main material to produce the colour i.e. green, chocolate, red, reddish and yellow and 3) Natural dye testing by rinsing with water and a mild detergent for 5-7 times to remove the remaining dye extract from the cotton and hanging them in the shade to dry.

This year, 53 artisan producer groups attended the two-day market event to showcase their unique and creative merchandise and earned a total revenue USD 7,445.20. This market event was a great opportunity for all artisans to showcase and promote their individual creativity and also provided a market to sell their merchandise to the customers.

The products showcased during the fair varied from traditional Tais fabrics, traditional Tais scarves, ceramic home decor, dolls, wood carvings, recycled plastic plants and flower pots, miniature decorations for the home using recycle material, various accessories for women, local soap, virgin coconut oil, traditional herbs,



local coffee and food. During the fair, the EEP team arranged a weaver from one of the municipalities to demonstrate the intricate art of weaving to all customers who attended.

This was a great learning experience for buyers who were able to understand the amount of work carried out in weaving a traditional Tais and therefore understand the value of a traditional Tais.

## Tais Festival

A Tais Festival was held celebrating the listing of Timor-Leste Tais on the UNESCO List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding.

The Tais Festival consisted of various activities that included the presentation of certificates of appreciation to weavers, a tais market event that provided opportunities for women weavers from different municipalities to sell their art, a tais weaving demonstration, and natural dye demonstrations. During the weaving and natural dye demonstration, the women weavers shared with visitors' aspects of the process of weaving tais.

The Secretary of Arts and Culture (SEAC) presented certificates of appreciation to the 30 weavers who contributed their ideas to complete the Intangible Culture Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding nomination form. The program continued with a tais fashion show presented by youth from each municipality, cultural dances and music performances.

In addition, a Tais market was held at the Dili Restaurant El-Legendario as part of the Tais Festival 2022 program supported by USAID Tourism for All Project and also part of the urgent safeguarding plan for intangible cultural heritage. Groups from 9 municipalities participated including Ainaro, Baucau, Bobonaro, Dili, Manatuto, Manufahi, Lautem, RAEOA-Oecusse and Viqueque. There was a total of 78 members including 22 youth. The total income generated from the Tais market was USD\$3,200.50.

Furthermore, the Timor-Leste National Committee of Intangible Cultural Heritage, Alola Foundation and partners held a Tais exhibition for two months at the Archive and Museum Resistance Timor-Leste (AMRT) as part of the celebration of Timorese Tais being listed as an intangible cultural heritage with UNESCO.



A USAID representative said that Timor-Leste will continue to develop by the collaboration of all institutions under one umbrella in the ICH committee which will create an environment of Timorese spirit to achieve the goal of safeguarding intangible cultural heritage. A total of 68 people attended the Tais exhibition including women weavers, guests and members of the ICH Committee. The Tais displayed at the exhibition were from the municipalities of Baucau, Bobonaro, Covalima, Lautem, and Oé-cusse RAEOA.

The Alola team organized schools representatives (elementary, secondary and university) to visit the Tais exhibition at AMRT, and a total 598 people attended which included 578 students and 20 teachers.

## Improving the capacity of Women Weavers to use local cotton and natural dyes in the weaving processing

Timor-Leste is very wealthy with varied information on natural dyes and local knowledge needs to be maintained as part of cultural preservation. The Alola Foundation through its EEP facilitated a 3 day training workshop in hand spinning local cotton and the use of natural dyes together with the women weavers group called "Tais Nain" in Dato village Liquica.

This training activity focused on the use of hand spun local cotton and natural dyes which is supported by UNESCO-Natcom, SEAC, communities and local authorities. The workshop aimed to encourage and motivate female weavers, especially young women, to learn and use natural dyes and local hand spun threads during the weaving process, with the great hope that the results they receive will be very positive for the weaving process.

During the 3 days the team facilitated the collection of leaves, bark and roots of certain plants to make the colours yellow, green, brown, red and black. Before carrying out the natural dyeing process, an oiling process was used to bind the colours to the thread. Total participants were 20 women.

## Women and Girls Empowered-Business and Social support to female Entrepreneurs in Timor-Leste (WAGE/BEST) Project

The Business and Social Support to Female Entrepreneurs in Timor-Leste (BEST) Initiative is the third strategic initiative of the





WAGE program. The BEST initiative is led by Grameen Foundation and supported by ABA ROLI, and it aims to address the intertwined social, economic, and regulatory challenges faced by female micro-entrepreneurs in starting, maintaining, and expanding businesses through building the capacity of microfinance institutions (MFIs) and women's empowerment-focused civil society organizations (WE CSOs) to provide female entrepreneurs with access to financial, entrepreneurial and social support. It responds to WAGE's core objectives to support women's economic empowerment by building the capacity of local MFIs and women's empowerment (WE) CSOs through technical assistance and small grants that facilitate the development, piloting, and evaluation of formal linkages that ultimately enable poor women to succeed as entrepreneurs.

Alola Foundation (AF) and Credit Union Lanamona conducted activities to help address these issues through building mutually-beneficial linkages between MFI's and CSO's in Timor-Leste. Expand Female entrepreneurs' access to financial, business, and gender-based violence (GBV) services was expanded. One of the benefits of this activity was that Alola Foundation beneficiaries were able to access financial services from Lanamona and vice versa the Lanamona members were able to get business education information from the Alola Team. These activities were held in Bobonaro municipality with 400 participants (F: 357 & M: 43).

In addition the Alola Foundation EEP and Advocacy staff were able to conduct an intra household dialogue with 60 participants (F: 30 & M: 30) representatives from Ermera, Liquiça and Bobonaro municipalities. The intra household dialogue offers discussion for family members on sensitive topics and provides an opportunity for participants to learn and also identify problems.



The 5 topics covered are household work division, positive and negative aspects of gender norms, household decision making, family harmony and household action plans. Participants reported that the intra household activities provided a good opportunity for them as young couples to build family relationships, to learn about sharing roles and responsibilities, and decision making as well learning from and sharing with others.

Alola and Lanamona were able to broadcast 12 SMS messages with content on how to start a business, making a business plan, characteristics of successful entrepreneurs, forming a support network, cash flow management, defining price, knowing your customer, understanding your place in the market, an operations guide; savings & loans, qualification to become members and special loans. The radio broadcasts in six administrative post; Maliana, Bobonaro, Balibo, Atabae, Cailaco, Lolotoe and according to the data collected by RCM each administrative post has twenty people accessing radio except Liquiça and Ermera, where there was no data on how many people were listening to radio. The broadcast occurred 3 times a day (7.00AM, 12.00PM, 19.00PM) from December 04, 2022 until January 04, 2023.



### **Weavers Networking - sharing strategies for empowerment, ownership and leadership.**

In April 2022, the TAFE (Timor Aid and Alola Foundation) signed partner agreement with UN Women in Timor-Leste to implement phase II of the project for the weaver's network in four municipalities; Bobonaro, Covalima, Lautem and Oé-Cusse-RAEOA which were established in 2019-2020 and to establish two new Weaver's Networks one in Baucau and one in Viqueque municipalities in 2022. The objectives were to strengthen the capacity of the weaver's network to provide strong and effective advocacy about their needs and recommendations, to increase business opportunities and market access for Tais products, to preserve and promote the understanding of Tais weaving as a Timorese intangible cultural heritage among the younger population, and to sensitize the weaver's partners through a capacity building session on gender norms, power and communication.

TAFE successfully established Weavers Networks in Viqueque and Baucau municipalities. An election was held for the weavers to elect the leadership of the networks: Coordinator, Vice-Coordinator, Treasurer, and Secretary. Prior to the

establishment of the networks, TAFE explained the objectives, the detailed leadership election process of the networks, and emphasised the importance of local and national stakeholders for collaboration and future support to the networks. The network is the umbrella for all weavers in each municipality to access information, to carry out capacity building training, and encourage stronger advocacy and self-driven commitment to achieving goals.

With the creation of the Weavers Networks, weavers' representatives from the municipalities were encouraged to participate in the National Tais Safeguarding Plan. Tais was internationally recognized by UNESCO as Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) of Timor-Leste, on December 14, 2021 and the National Parliament has designated the same date for National Day of Tais. TAFE completed capacity building sessions for the Weaver Network's members which included training in leadership and GBV awareness, proposal writing and budgeting, Tais quality (measurement, pricing standardization, weighing natural and industrial thread) product diversification and natural dyeing in Baucau, Viqueque and Covalima.

Total participants were Baucau (F: 33 & M: 2), Viqueque (F: 42 & M: 2) and Covalima (F: 52 M: 1). In addition TAFE conducted a training needs assessment (TNA) which aims to measure the weaver's educational level, skills and knowledge, market access and training needs to empower the Weaver's Network on an organizational and individual level with a focus on advocacy. The findings of the TNA will form the basis of future training activities. Also Money Minded training was facilitated by ANZ bank staff for the Weavers Network members in Baucau and Viqueque municipalities. The training topics included planning for the future, making the money last, need vs want, budgeting and assertiveness how to say "No". Total participants were Baucau (F: 44 & M: 1) and Viqueque (F: 44 & M: 1).

### **Double the impact: increasing microcredit for livelihoods, and sustaining community-led support for isolated mothers and babies**

As an integrated program, the Aloia Foundation's Economic Empowerment Program and Maternal Child Health Program continue to strengthen the capacity of women who are involved in "Suku Hadomi Inan no Oan" (SHIO) (the village loves mothers and babies) groups in the municipality of Ainaro, Aileu and Liquiça. The purpose is to monitor and evaluate the progress that graduated SHIO group have achieved after their graduation from the program and how the small micro credit activities running within the group to empower them to be financially sustainable and also assist them to be capable to serve the community in need. In 2022, the two programs conducted M&E in at least 8 villages (Asumano, Leorema, Vatuvoro, Vatuvou, Loidahar, Dato, Lauhata, Tibar) in Liquiça municipality. Overall, the SHIO groups activities were going well, and all members have had opportunities to access small funds that benefit their family members and communities.



## ADVOCACY PROGRAM

The Advocacy Program in 2022 was dedicated to promoting and safeguarding women's human rights through a multifaceted approach. It encompassed diverse activities aimed at addressing gender-based violence, especially for secondary school ages, enhancing women's leadership, and strengthening partnerships with minority and religious groups. Additionally, the program focused on empowering women across all sectors and municipalities by providing access to crucial information about their rights.

Throughout the year, the Advocacy Program played a pivotal role in advancing gender equality for women, children, and minority groups. Alola Foundation's commitment to creating positive change was evident at the individual, community, and political levels. By substantially improving the capacity and skills of young people, teachers, parents, and community members, the foundation aimed to empower and mobilise communities for women's human rights.

At the political level, the Advocacy Program sought to bolster women candidates for the forthcoming village and municipal level elections. By encouraging male engagement in discussions about gender, youth, and children's issues during national and municipal dialogues and seminars, Alola Foundation fostered a supportive environment for promoting women's rights across all sectors of society.

One of the significant achievements of the program was the widespread awareness raising on important laws and issues. Initiatives included broad dissemination of information about the Law Against Domestic Violence and the Prevention of Gender-Based Violence, including early pregnancy and Sexual and Reproductive Health rights. The program also involved analysis and advocacy around Human Trafficking issues, young women's issues, and children and minority groups' rights to ensure their protection in all aspects of life.

Below are the activities and achievements of Advocacy Sub Programs of Fundasaun Alola.

### Results of the Advocacy Program in 2022:

**Strengthen collaboration with relevant partners at national and municipality level to advocate for women's and children's issues, such as FONGTIL.**

FONGTIL as the umbrella for all international, national and local NGOs in Timor-Leste, recognised the expertise and dedication of Alola Foundation by choosing them as the coordinator for the "Social Audit" project. The Alola Foundation was entrusted with the responsibility of monitoring and evaluating project implementation in five key sectors: Education, Health, Infrastructure, Agriculture, and Social Work. as the umbrella organisation for all international, national and local NGOs in Timor-Leste, recognised the expertise and dedication of Alola Foundation by choosing them as as the coordinator for the "Social Audit" project. The Alola Foundation was entrusted with the responsibility of monitoring and evaluating project implementation in five key sectors: Education, Health, Infrastructure, Agriculture, and Social Work.

With support from Alola Australia and Blue Mountains East Timor Sisters (BMETS), Alola Foundation's initiative to promote women's participation in politics and decision-making positions, under the banner "FETO PRONTU LIDERA" (Women are Ready to Lead) received recognition from the government, National Parliament, donors, and other stakeholders.



The Alola Foundation demonstrated commitment to advocating for women's rights by undertaking the task of drafting the CEDAW Shadow report for six sectors: Human Trafficking, Economy, Health, Education, Gender Based Violence, and Justice. The CEDAW Report is a crucial document for the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), highlighting the progress made and challenges faced in addressing gender discrimination.

The Advocacy Program activities are implemented through two main projects: the Women's Resource Centre based in Dili, and the Municipal Support Project with Field Officers in each municipality.

## Women's Resource Centre

The Women's Resource Centre (WRC) played a pivotal role in promoting gender equality and empowering women across various segments of society. The WRC aimed to develop the capacity of young people (both women and men), teachers, students, parents, community members, and minority groups to advocate for their rights effectively.

The WRC served as a public and friendly space for young people, offering opportunities for skill development and access to critical information about their rights. Throughout the year, the WRC provided support to 3,330 individuals (F: 1,918 and M: 1,412). These activities were implemented with support from Alola Australia and BMETS.

The range of services and activities provided by the WRC included :

- Access to Free Internet and Computer Facilities: The WRC enabled individuals to access the internet and computer facilities, promoting digital literacy and empowering them with knowledge and information. Furthermore,
- Library Services: The well-equipped library at the WRC served as a valuable resource for individuals seeking information on various topics related to women's rights, gender-based violence, and other social issues.
- Referral assistance for Gender-Based Violence victims: Trained staff at the WRC provided referral assistance and support to victims of gender-based violence, ensuring they received support and guidance.
- Training on Life Skills Training: The WRC delivered life skills training sessions, equipping individuals with essential



- information about staying healthy, legal rights, looking for work, and problem-solving;
- Training on Gender-Based Violence: Participants benefited from training sessions that addressed the prevention of gender-based violence.
- Other important activities, such as, Monthly Discussions and Public Speaking Events: The WRC facilitated monthly discussions on various topics, including women's human rights, gender-based violence, human trafficking, and the Law against Domestic Violence. Public speaking events provided a platform for participants to voice their opinions and share their experiences.

In addition to these activities, the Women's Resource Centre organised national dialogues on critical issues, such as youth dedication to national development, strategies to combat HIV/AIDS, and women's readiness to take leadership roles. These dialogues featured speakers from diverse backgrounds, including government officials, political parties, senior human rights activists, and LGBTI groups. The inclusion of male speakers was a deliberate strategy by the Alola Foundation to increase opportunities for male support in promoting women's human rights across all sectors of society.



In 2022, The Women's Resource Center through the UNW Spotlight program, conducted Training of Trainer (ToT) on "Connect with Respect" (CWR) for 30 teachers from 15 schools from Bobonaro, Ermera and Viqueque districts. The training results showed that the capacity of teachers as seen from the pre-test and post-test results, increased from 36% pre-test to 72% post-test. Furthermore, Refresh Training was conducted for the reference group, to increase their capacity

in line with the Connect with Respect Guidelines. Increased capacity of the reference group was measured by working group discussions and evaluation of their ability to understand how to prevent GBV and their response to GBV at the school, family, and community level. Also, their understanding of how to create a friendly space at school and family level.

Furthermore, through the UNFPA Spotlight program, in 2022, training was conducted on CEDAW, Life Skills and GBV prevention including understanding the Human Trafficking Law, for 7 youth groups at 5 Sub Districts in Viqueque Municipality, total participants were 42 youths. The result showed that the capacity of youth increased, as seen by the pre-test level of 25% compared with post-test level of 80%. At that time the results were published on a talk show at Radio

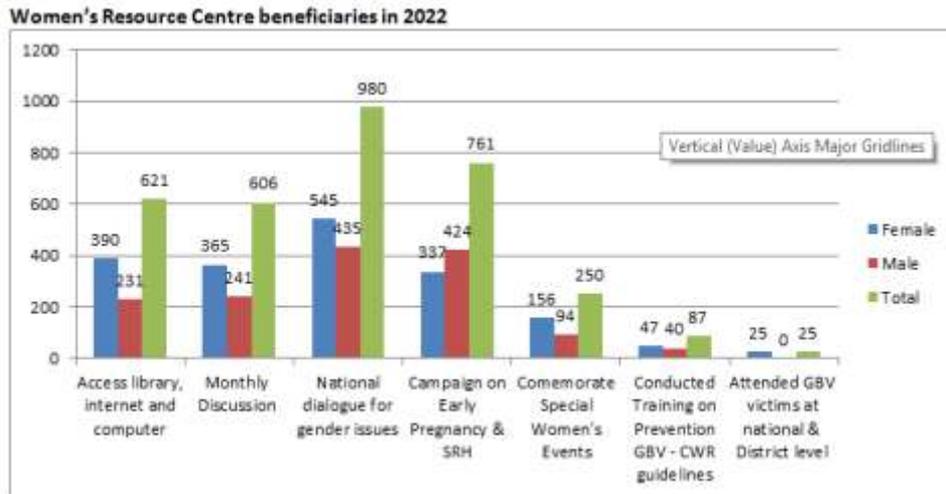
Komunidade to increase community awareness on how to prevent and response to GBV at the community level.

Other achievements through the UNFPA ZONTA program "Prevention of Gender Based Violence" were a collaboration with the Ministry of Health at Liquica Municipality. Fundasaun Alola conducted a campaign on Prevention of Early Pregnancy and Sexual Reproductive Health at 2 villages (Darulete and Loedahar), the total participants were 236 (F:119 & M:117). The project was successful because it had maximum support from the local authorities, members of village councils, youth, and schools.



Table 1 - Women's Resource Centre beneficiaries in 2022

## Municipal Support Project



The Municipality Support Program (MSP) remained committed to strengthening women's leadership in 2022. Village and municipal elections are scheduled for November 2023 and 2024, respectively. Supporting women's active participation in the lead-up to these elections is critical.

With the support of the Canada Fund and BMETS, the MSP collaborated with women's organisations in each municipality through the MSP network of municipally based Field Officers. Local authorities and Village chiefs identified 13 potential women candidates, and 12 women officials to play an essential role in the elections. These aspiring women leaders participated in extensive leadership training,

public speaking opportunities, and Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats (SWOT) Analysis to support the development of the skills, knowledge, and confidence to participate in electoral processes.

The participants also engaged in a workshop to learn about CEDAW, the Local Electoral Law, and the Territorial Division of Government Law. Following the CEDAW workshop, Alola Foundation created a collaboration with Ministério da Administração Estatal or Ministry of State Administration (ESTATAL) to champion the issues identified in the Citizens Forums for women and children in rural municipalities.

With support from The Asia Foundation, in 2022, the MSP took further action against Human Trafficking by conducting a Training of Trainers (ToT) to enhance the capacity of the members of the Human Trafficking Working Group, local governments, village councils, religious leaders, and youth in responding to human trafficking issues, including prevention and victim protection. The result of the implementation was excellent, with participants experiencing a significant increase in knowledge. The pre-test and post-test results demonstrated knowledge levels increased from 25% to 90%.

The impact of the MSP's efforts was evident in resolving cases of human trafficking. Including that of Mrs Juliana dos Santos who had lived in Indonesia for 24 years because she was a victim of violence in 1999. Now she has returned to her country and legally regained her identity as a citizen of Timor-Leste.

To further increase women's participation in decision-making positions, the MSP implemented a new strategy of involving men, including husbands, local authorities, and village heads. The MSP also organised talk shows on local Community Radio to gain support from families and the general community. The Talk Shows proved to be a resounding success, reaching an impressive listenership of 18,000. This breakthrough demonstrated a growing interest in women's issues and highlighted the effectiveness of Community Radio as a medium for engaging communities.





The MSP's commitment to addressing gender based violence was evident in providing support and assistance to victims. As part of the DSP's efforts, victims of gender based violence were promptly assisted and referred to legal processes and shelters. These important activities were carried out in 12 municipalities, including Covalima, Manufahi, Ainaro, Aileu, Lautem, Baucau, Viqueque, Manatuto, Liquica, Ermera, Bobonaro, and Oecusse.

The MSP also continued to support local women's groups, leading to remarkable achievements. One of the notable success stories was the TATIRI women's group in Hatubilico Sub District, which realised its long-term goal of setting up a restaurant. The success of the restaurant, generating a profit of more than \$25.00 daily, exemplified the potential for women's economic empowerment and self-sufficiency.



# OFFICE SUPPORT DIVISION

The Alola Office Support (AOS) Division is playing a critical role from day to day because it supports the implementation of Alola's entire program activities in the field. As well as supporting project implementation and logistic needs, the AOS has also undertaken the care of such important activities as follows:

## Monitoring and Evaluation To Ensure Quality of Program Delivery

Every year Fundasaun Alola provides an extensive community program that operates throughout the country. In order to ensure the quality of the program, Fundasaun Alola, through its M&E Department, uses the MEL Guideline. This Guideline provides a mechanism for a consistent and quality approach to monitoring, evaluation and learning across the four program areas (Maternal & Child Health, Education, Women's Economic Empowerment and Advocacy).



Using the MEL Guideline, during 2022, the Alola M&E team worked in collaboration with program managers, donors and partners to adapt a range of tools to document and measure changes according to the project indicators which vary for each program. The tools used to gather information include surveys, questionnaires, direct observations, event logs, attendance records and interviews with individuals and groups. As a result, during 2022, the M&E department had successfully conducted several activities including baseline and end line surveys, project assessment and project and program evaluations. The information collected has been used to inform the programs and donors of its project progress, effectiveness, and achievements as well as changes that may have occurred within the target populations and present them with recommendations for project improvements.

## Alola's Childcare Center – Provide Learning Space for Children

As well as implementing various program activities in the field, in 2022, Fundasaun Alola through its Childcare Center continued to provide a space for children of staff from the age of 3 months to 2 years old. This support enabled



mothers to successfully exclusively breastfeed their babies for the first 6 months of life and continue to breastfeed their babies up to 2 years or beyond. In addition, the Childcare Center also continued to enroll children aged from 2 - 7 years with the objective to take care of the children and to provide them a space to learn and play while their parents are working at the office. The organization employed two staff at the center to provide the care and to assist children by delivering a daily program of reading, writing, and drawing, playing games and singing songs. During the year of 2022, 16 children have accessed Alola's Childcare Center.

### Charity Action To Celebrate Fundasaun Alola's Birthday

To celebrate Fundasaun Alola's 21st anniversary, at the end of April 2022, The Alola Management team visited the children in the Dominican orphanage run by the nuns at Bidau-Santa Ana village of Dili municipality. During the visit, the team distributed food including rice, cooking oil and hygiene kits to support the children who lived at the orphanage. This initiative was aimed to show care and love of the organization for the children as part of celebrating the organization's 21 years of serving the women and children of Timor-Leste. The initiative was well received by the nuns, who expressed their gratitude for the assistance provided by the Aloa team.



### Alola Foundation's Regional Office Building in Baucau - Hand Back to Local Government

Fundasaun Alola office in Baucau Municipality was rehabilitated in 2007 and the building which belonged to the local government was provided for Alola to operate as the branch office of the Fundasaun Alola in Baucau Municipality. Since 2009 the office has accommodated a number of programs including Maternal and Child Health, Advocacy and Education which operated in the areas of Manatuto, Baucau, Lautem and Viqueque municipalities. In 2022, the local municipality required the use of the building. Following a meeting in July 2022 both parties agreed that the building would be handed back to the local government and since then all the Alola programs have been operated at the central office in Dili as the main office of the Fundasaun Alola.

## Alola Esperanca – Social Enterprise For Fundraising Support

Alola Esperanca is the social enterprise wing of Fundasaun Alola. As part of the fundraising strategy the aim is that Alola Esperanca supports the sustainability of Fundasaun Alola. After a period of approximately two years of declining income, due to Covid-19 and various situations and conditions, finally in 2022, Alola Esperanca strengthened its business strategy and began to improve. This included reaching new customers and increasing product diversification in order to increase income.

As part of this plan, in 2022, Alola Esperanca employed 16 female staff to work as Tais weavers, designing, cutting and sewing products based on registered service requests. Alola Esperanca received technical support from Ms. Luisa Mlow, an international volunteer, who developed a business plan for Alola Esperanca as well as a strategy to improve the quality and diversification of Tais products. The result is that the range of products produced at the Taibesi production center in Dili in 2022 included Tais textiles for women and men, which were then made into various Tais products such as dresses, skirts, various bags, wallets and tablecloths. The accessories included earrings and other items

These products were good quality and were then sold at the Alola Esperanca shop and at other national and international exhibitions and markets and distributed to fill orders/requests from registered customers.

Apart from the products mentioned above, Alola Esperanca also continues to produce maternity packs. They produce 150 – 300 packages each year in accordance with the Fundasaun Alola Maternal and Child Health program to distribute to their target groups. The total number of visitors/buyers who visited the Alola Esperanca shop every day ranged from 2 – 5 people, including buyers, visitors and /tourists from foreign countries.





Alola Foundation - Dili



Alola Foundation - Dili



Alola Foundation - Dili



Alola Foundation Dili



Kirsty Sword



Emily SSTL



Emily SSTL



alola



The Chairwoman of the Alola Foundation, Dr. Kirsty Sword Gusmão, led the first meeting of the Alola's Consultative Council.

**Kirsty Sword**



CAM 01



CAM 02



CAM 03



CAM 04

# SUMMARISED INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

## TO BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF FUNDASAUN ALOLA

We have audited the financial report of Fundasaun Alola, which comprises the statement of financial position as at 31 December 2022, the statement of comprehensive income, and statement of cash flows for the year ended 2022, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies, and the directors' declaration. In our opinion, the accompanying financial report of Fundasaun Alola is in accordance with the International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS), including: (a) giving a true and fair view of the Organisation's financial position as at 31 December 2022 and of its financial performance for the year then ended; and (b) complying with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS).

### **Basis for opinion**

Our audit was conducted in compliance with the International Standards on Auditing (ISAs), as stipulated by the International Auditing and Assurance Standards Board (IAASB). Our roles and responsibilities under these standards are elaborated further in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements' section of our report.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. In terms of our professional independence, we confirm that we have upheld our duties in line with the international auditor independence requirements and the ethical requisites set out by the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants (IESBA) under the International Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including International Independence Standards) (the Code). These are the standards that govern our audit of the financial statements globally, including in Australia.

Additionally, we have fulfilled all other ethical responsibilities as required by the Code, ensuring our conduct remains impartial and objective throughout the audit process. We reaffirm that the independence declaration, required by and provided to the directors of Fundasaun Alola, remains true and unaltered, and would be reiterated in the same terms if it were given to the directors at the time of this auditor's report.

### **Responsibilities of the directors for the financial report**

The directors of the Fundasaun Alola are responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards and for such internal control as the directors determine is

necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In preparing the financial report, the directors are responsible for assessing the Fundasaun Alola's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the directors either intend to liquidate the Fundasaun Alola or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

**Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial report**

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our unqualified opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with International Standards on Auditing will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

Yours sincerely,



**Paul A. R. Menezes,**

CPA (Australia) Reg. No: 10628318  
29 Nov 2023

## Statement of Financial Position for the year ended 31 December 2022

CURRENT ASSET	
Cash and cash equivalents	932,140.00
Employee Receivable	16,661.00
Operational Advances	4,825.00
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSET</b>	<b>953,626.00</b>
NON-CURRENT ASSET	
Property and Equipment, net	195,098.00
<b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSET</b>	<b>195,098.00</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSET</b>	<b>1,148,724.00</b>
CURRENT LIABILITY	
Accounts Payables and Other Payables	58,133.00
Payroll Liabilities	3,247.00
<b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITY</b>	<b>61,380.00</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITY</b>	<b>61,380.00</b>
<b>NET ASSET</b>	<b>1,087,344.00</b>
EQUITY	
Current Year Earnings	(168,478.00)
Retained Earnings	1,255,822.00
	<b>1,087,344.00</b>

<b>Statement of Comprehensive Income</b>	
For the year ended 31 December 2022	
<b>Grants/Donation Received</b>	1,267,734.00
Other Income	38,351.00
Gross Profit	1,306,085.00
<b>Operating Expenses</b>	
Admin Staff Costs	(157,944.00)
Bank Fee	(829.00)
Project Staff Costs	(406,841.00)
Implementation Cost	(469,320.00)
Other Staff Costs	(28,662.00)
Operational Costs	(283,999.00)
Scholarship	(82,484.00)
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	(1,430,079.00)
Depreciation	(44,485.00)
Profit (Loss) Before Tax from Continuing Operations	(168,478.00)
Profit (Loss) After Tax from Continuing Operations	(168,478.00)
<b>Net Surplus/(Loss)</b>	<b>(168,478.00)</b>

<b>STATEMENT OF CASH FLOW - Direct Method</b>	
For the year ended 31 December 2022	
<b>OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>	
Cash received from donors/customers	1,306,085.00
Cash payments to suppliers and employees	(1,442,468.00)
<b>Net cash flows from operating activities</b>	<b>\$ (136,383.00)</b>
<b>INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>	
Acquisition of property, plant & equipment	-
<b>Net Cash Flow from investing activities</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>	
Net cash used in financing activities	-
<b>Net increased (decreased) in cash held</b>	<b>(136,383.00)</b>
Cash at the beginning of the financial year	1,068,523.00
<b>Cash at the end of the financial year</b>	<b>932,140.00</b>

## ALOLA FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2022



**Ms. Dr. KIRSTY SWORD GUSMÃO AO (Chair)**

*Former First Lady of Timor-Leste; Founder and Chair of Alola Foundation, Founder and President of Dili Institute of Technology (DIT), Founder of Xanana Gusmao Reading Room (XGRR), President of the Advisory Committee of the National Director of Linguistics, Andrew McNaughton Trust, Patron of the Blair Forster Memorial Trust, and Goodwill Ambassador for Education, Timor-Leste,*

**Ms. CEDELIZA FARIA DOS SANTOS** - *General Secretary of National Parliament Timor-Leste, former executive secretary and Head of Administration and Finance Department of UNESCO*

**Ms. ANTONIA CARMEN DA CRUZ** - *National Director of Social Service, Ministry of Social Service.*

**Ms. ZEENAT AWAN ALUWIHARE** - *Business women and Director of East Timor Trading Group.*

**Ms. BÁRBARA NAZARETH DE OLIVEIRA** - *Laywer at Jurídico Social (JU,S).*

**Ms. DIRCE MARIA SOARES** - *Training Director of INS-MoH and Former Head of Nutrition Departement of MoH*

**Ms. CRISTINA FREITAS BENEDEK** - *Senior International Consultant.*

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*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 2022 which enables us to deliver our program to our community.*

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