

100 Schools project: Securing lifelines and livelihoods for children of East Timor



UN Trust Fund for Human Security



Fast Facts

Country: Timor-Leste

Duration: February 2005 to December 2007

Implementing UN Agencies: UNICEF

Other Implementing Partners: Ministry of Education

Budget: \$1,169,964

Key Words: Access to education; children; conflict-affected communities

BACKGROUND

The referendum of 1999 sparked an exodus of teachers, many of whom were Indonesian nationals. As a result, more than a third of primary-school-aged children, most of them girls, did not attend school. Meanwhile, attendance in rural areas and amongst secondary school children was even lower, reflecting a lack of support among parents and the community for

education, in particular for girls. At the same time, for those enrolled, the lack of textbooks and learning materials, in addition to outdated curriculum, the absence of water and sanitation facilities along with underqualified and underpaid teachers contributed to a poor educational environment.

PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

In an effort to increase enrolment and to improve the retention rates of children attending primary schools, the project's overall goal was to increase the quality of primary education. By applying a mutually reinforcing bottom-up and top-down approach, the project sought

to (i) increase the competency of teachers; (ii) heighten the achievement of children attending primary schools; and (iii) build capacities at the village level to mobilize communities to become more involved in the educational process.

BENEFICIARIES

The main beneficiaries were children in Timor-Leste who received improved education and new learning techniques. Moreover, school teachers and educational

staff undertook training in teaching techniques, outreach to parents, leadership and management