



MINISTÉRIO DA
EDUCAÇÃO

Concept Note¹
for
2st dialogue of the Joint Action for Education in Timor-Leste
(ACETL)

I. Introduction

Timor-Leste is in the process of development since the country gained its independence in 2002.

The development of the Education sector is a pivotal part of the whole development process as reflected in the Strategic Development Plan 2011-2030: “...*Our Vision is that all our Timorese children should attend school and receive a quality education that gives them the knowledge and skills to lead healthy, productive lives and to actively contribute to our nation development²...*”.

Therefore Education should be at the the core of the development strategy, as it contributes to the preparation of human resource capacity that is required by the labor market.

In this regard, integrated effort by the government, developing partners and civil society organizations are essential and strategic to move education forward.

The National Education Strategic Plan 2011-2030 underlines the importance of establishing partnerships: “...*the Government of Timor-Leste recognizes the vital role civil society can play in meeting Education targets and to heighten the value of this relationship ... The Ministry is committed to support the work of church, NGOs and other organizations....*”³

¹ Drafted by Rui Manuel Hanjam for the Ministry of Education

² See Page 16, The Strategic Development Plan 2011-2030

³ see page 79; The National Education Strategic Plan 2011-2030

There are many challenges ahead to improve the quality of Education so that Timor-Leste is able to compete both regionally and internationally.

There is a need to have effective coordination with all partners and to intensify efforts to support the education sector to bring up the quality level to the required standards.

These challenges were underlined in the National Education Strategic Plan as follows: **first**, *poor alignment of the international cooperation with the education sector needs and priorities*; **second**, *uncoordinated proliferation of teacher training programs in schools resulting in unacceptable teachers absence from the classrooms*; **third**, *little coordination of the work performed by more than 25 national and international non-government organizations (NGOs), many whom are involved in school-based activities without knowledge or authorization of the Ministry of Education*⁴

The first dialogue of the Joint Action for Education (ACETL) was conducted in January 2013 and revealed important issues of education, mainly focused on quality of Education.

The first dialogue resulted in a compilation of ideas from all participants in the following issues: how to reduce the gap in the quality of education between public and private schools; solutions to improve the profile and the status of teachers from temporary to permanent; challenges faced by the school and district administration staff; share of experiences on how to improve teacher training program to enhance the teachers' capacity to become more professional and more qualified.

On this 2nd Joint Action of Education in Timor-Leste, the Ministry will focus on the issue of lack of coordination and monitoring on all activities at district and school level.

II. Objective

The objective of the 2nd AECTL is to:

- First, discuss the issue of teacher qualification and performance, identifying concrete mechanisms to improve the quality of teaching and the proper dissemination to the young students of the values and principles that build the national identity;
- Second, to present the existing network of partners working in education and to propose the establishment of a joint monitoring group to assist the Ministry with the process of education at district and school level, in areas such as School Feeding Program, Teacher performance, School facilities,

⁴ see, page 53; The National Education Strategic Plan 2011-2030

School Grants, participation of Parent-teacher association, compliance of children rights in all school both public and private;

- Third, formalize the establishment and the official launch of the local education group and the Joint Monitoring group (Grupo Monitorização Conjunta) under the umbrella of the ACETL in all districts.

III. Participants

A preliminary list of participants is attached and may be modified during preparation for 2nd dialogue of the ACETL.

IV. Methodology

The 2nd dialogue is conducted in a participatory manner. The dialogue is intended to promote the active participation of all key partners working in Education, whom are invited to share their experience. Priority will be given to Ministry's district and school representatives. Representatives from the church, religious institutions and relevant education developing partners and civil society organizations will also be invited to actively contribute with their experience.

The dialogue is planned to start with an overview of the result of the last 1st AECTL dialogue, followed by a mix of presentations and round table discussions.

It is planned to have two key round table discussions preceded by presentations on the two main themes of the 2nd dialogue:

- Teacher qualification and performance (possible key note speaker - Global Partnership for Education);
- Monitoring of education programs at district and school level (possible key note speaker – Civil Society Organization/NGO).

At the round table discussions each representative will share his experience in the two main issues of the 2nd dialogue. The chosen representatives of each of the round table discussions will be able to identify strengths and weaknesses in the above-mentioned areas and to advise on the level and effectiveness of partner and civil society engagement with the MoE.

Before completion of the 2nd dialogue there will be time to formalize the launch of the: Local Education Group; Joint Monitoring group as part of the ACETL establishment at district level.

The Ministry of Education will organize a technical secretariat that will support all aspects of the 2nd dialogue and work together with a facilitator to assist the

process of discussion, taking notes of all interventions and summarize main findings and recommendations linking it with the Education Sector Annual Action Plans.

A preliminary Agenda is attached (Annex 2).

V. Proposed Date and Venue

The date proposed for the National Workshop is May 9, 2014. The venue of the workshop will be Maliana.

VII. Reference documents

The National Workshop departs from progress achieved in recent consultations/workshops organized by the MoE, namely:

- 1st Dialogue of the Joint Action for Education in Timor-Leste (ACETL) – January 2013 (Annex 4).
- Annual Action Plan 2014.
- Progress report for the 1st quarter of 2014.
- Summary of key funding gaps of the MoE.

VIII. Sharing of Lessons Learned for Education Development

The panel summary, conclusions and recommendations on the specific issue of teacher qualification and launching of the three initiatives mentioned above will be published and disseminated among all Education partners to support them in implementing the “best practices” in Education. All the meeting outcomes will be distributed and broadcasted in mass media.

IX. Conclusion, closing and call for the next meeting

The one-day round table discussion will end with the closing speech of the Minister of Education and announcement of the planned date of the next meeting.

Annexes:

1. Participants List
2. Agenda
3. 1st Dialogue of the Joint Action for Education in Timor-Leste Minutes and Summary Conclusions.
4. MoE key 2014 documents