Assisting Timor-Leste’s youth and adults in gaining access to education.

Background
Change and growth in the education sector has been significant since independence in 2002. Despite rapid population growth, enrolment rates in primary education have continued to increase since 2004. Still, with remaining challenges in attracting and retaining students through formal education, a large number of young and adult Timorese remain without adequate basic education to support their participation in the economy and in society. Lack of basic education greatly restricts their access to life opportunities, including income.

About the Project
Second chance education programs such as the national Equivalency Program are a central way of meeting the needs of the large stock of youth and adults that have not completed their basic education.

The Ministry of Education’s Directorate of Recurrent Education is the key Government agency responsible for managing and delivering the second chance programs to achieve these goals.

The project will aim to contribute to labor productivity by increasing the stock of job seekers with recognized basic education certification and proven basic skills. The graduates of these programs will be better equipped to participate in Timor-Leste’s development.

The project consists of four components:

Component 1 - Curriculum development and production/distribution of learning and instructional materials. This will aim to support the development of a quality Equivalency Curriculum, train trainers in its delivery, and strengthen the quality and availability of learning and instructional materials.

Component 2 - Improved quality of service delivery. This component includes management strengthening, training and funding of teaching staff and community facilitators, monitoring and evaluation, and program promotion.

Component 3 - Expansion of local capacity for service delivery through Community Learning Centers. This component will support the evaluation, planning and delivery of expanded service delivery capacity through establishment of up to 65 Community Learning Centers.

Component 4 - Information, monitoring & evaluation technology. The project will finance instructional, information and office related technology, and monitoring studies to strengthen management and service delivery.

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Increasing the number of out-of-school youth and young adults who complete recognized equivalency programs.

Decreasing the number and rate of drop outs from each program and level by increasing internal efficiency.

Developing curriculum and instructional materials.

Location: The project is based in Dili at the Ministry of Education and will be run nation-wide.

Approval Date: 7 December 2010
Closing Date: 31 December 2015
Total Program Cost: US$5 million
Donors: World Bank (International Development Association)—US$5 million
Implementing Agency: Timor-Leste Ministry of Education
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