



## Lafaek Diak Update

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### Dear friends and supporters,

During the first half of 2012, Timor-Leste was frenzied with political campaigns for the Presidential and Parliamentary elections. On 20<sup>th</sup> May, the national day which commemorates the Restoration of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste (RDTL) was celebrated, and the newly elected President Taur Matan Ruak was officially installed into office. This day also marked the 10th celebration of independence from RDTL. Further, on 7<sup>th</sup> July, Parliamentary elections were held and Kai Rala Xanana Gusmao remains Prime Minister. The new coalition government was sworn-in in early August, and leading government officials are currently being appointed. Time will tell how this new government will affect Lafaek Diak's rural community development work. In addition to these national developments, the United Nations Mission to East Timor (UNMISET) will be ending in December this year, which will have an impact on our social, economic and security situation.

### Cover your mouth when you cough and sneeze

On 20th April, a Lecturer in Health Psychology from Australia, and her colleague, visited Triloka Clinic to teach the "Cover your mouth when you cough and sneeze" module to all clinic staff. In June, following this training, the FLD Health Education team visited 4 schools in the community area to teach this module, reaching 432 students. The focus of this module was to highlight the importance of self-responsibility in prevention of infectious diseases, such as Tuberculosis and Leprosy. Furthermore, the children were reminded of the need for hand-washing before preparing and eating meals, as well as after using the toilet. One teacher commented: "I appreciated this activity because it provided good knowledge on how the students can reduce their chances of becoming ill".



### Shipment from Germany

On 23rd May, a delivery of medicine and laboratory equipment arrived from DIFAEM Germany. The shipment was cross-checked and all medications were stored in order of expiration date. The medication stock has now been replenished, and patients continue to receive their prescriptions. The laboratory equipment has been placed in temporary storage awaiting the re-roofing of the clinic building, which is due to take place in September.

## Scholarship Update

This year, FLD is happy to announce that there is one more scholarship recipient, Cesario Pereria Freitas (see picture), who will begin his studies in Pharmacy in September 2012. Both Lucrecia and Anastasia have now completed their second semester at university in Indonesia and continue to thrive. FLD has secured funding for two more scholarships next year; one young woman will train as a midwife and the other, a long-term FLD administration staff member, will study management.



## Nutritional cooking demonstrations

As part of a new focus in the Health Education program at FLD, there are weekly cooking demonstrations using local produce, with parents and children from the community. These families have been identified by clinic staff as struggling with malnutrition, and needing extra support. This new programme is a trial, and will be evaluated after one year to see how successful it has been in educating parents about nutrition.

## Tais Scarves for Melbourne Millennium Chorus (MMC)



Twenty-five women from Home village spent 4 weeks weaving 150 tais scarves on back-strap looms for this year's Melbourne Millennium Chorus. This concert, which took place on the 5<sup>th</sup> August at Melbourne Town Hall, marked ten years of independence in East Timor. The weavers are involved in the income-generation scheme which was set-up by FLD.

The weaving on the scarves ordered by The Boite from Melbourne for the MMC read: 'Mai Fali eh' (Tetun for: 'come home'), which is the title of a favourite Timorese children's song that was sung at the concert. The colours used in these scarves reflect both the Timorese colours (red, yellow, black and white) as well as the Australian (blue and white) national colours.

## Sewing machines donated to sewing group in Bucoli

Seven sewing machines and one overlocker were given to a women's sewing group in Bucoli village, donated by Australian supporters of FLD. This group received two manual treadle sewing machines through FLD in 2005, however, now that an electricity supply has been established in the village (in 2011), the women are excited to use the electrical sewing machines. Another seven sewing machines will be given to Uainau school at the end of August 2012. This is another group benefiting from the income-generation scheme set-up by FLD. The picture shows the women and their new sewing machines



## Mechanic workshop and training

Despite a few set-backs, FLD is making progress in the development of a mechanic workshop with training facilities. In April this year, a contract with the Secretariat for

Professional Training with the government was signed, and FLD awaits funding for the first training to begin in the near future.

In May 2012, FLD was able to establish an electricity line to the training centre campus. This now allows electrical machinery to be used in the mechanical workshop, and is a big step forward for the training course. It is also a helpful security measure at night (see picture). This was enabled through a one-off donation from Bank of I.D.E.A.S, and a hard working team.

## Staff Changes



Many thanks to Heath Thompson, a PALMS volunteer (Australian organisation), after a year at FLD in Triloka. He worked together with the team on organisational development and institutional building. There was transfer of skills in both directions. His unfortunate early departure means he is sorely missed. Thanks for your commitment and all the best.

FLD anticipates the arrival of two new volunteers within the next six months.

There have been many changes in staff at the clinic and at FLD since the beginning of the year, which has led to on-going staff re-training. FLD continues to search for long-term committed staff with a passion for rural community development. As mentioned earlier, the UN departure from East Timor in December may increase the number of skilled people in search for employment.

## Future Plans

- In early September, Western Australia Rotary group (Cockburn) in partnership with FLD will re-roof the clinic building, preparations are already under way.
- After a year of searching for a resident doctor at the clinic, two temporary doctors will be volunteering their time and expertise to the Triloka community in September and October. We continue to search for doctors to help at the clinic.

**Lafaek Diak wishes to express sincere gratitude to all friends and partners, both individual and institutional, for supporting community development in East Timor through partnering with Lafaek Diak.**

<b>Further Donations can be made Through international bank transfer to :</b>	
Account Name:	Fundação Lafaek Diak
Address:	Becora, Dili, East Timor
Name of Bank :	Bank Mandiri, Dili Branch, Timor Leste
Account No:	601-00-0014221-9
Swift Code:	BEIINDJA
Correspondent Bank:	CHASUS 33 JP Morgan Chase Bank of New York

**A special thanks to Charlie Beckley (former volunteer) for re-designing our new website; please visit us at: [www.thegoodcrocodilefoundation.org](http://www.thegoodcrocodilefoundation.org) or join us on **Facebook****