



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

AMS supports a range of supplementary community development projects that focus on building resilience, providing care and support for the vulnerable and improving health outcomes.

Katilosa Program Timor-Leste (ET0017)

Klibur Aleizadu (KATILOSA) is a non-government organisation based in the small village of Darasula in Baucau District, Timor-Leste. Timor-Leste is a country with very few services available for those with a disability and KATILOSA is one of only two registered disability focused organisations in all of Baucau District, the other being a special school.



A core program of KATILOSA is the Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) program which seeks to provide support to those living with a disability in their home and village environments. KATILOSA employs two staff who travel out to the homes of children and adults with a disability and provide assessments and ongoing treatment plans. Their aim is to enable greater independence through physiotherapy, seeking assistive devices such as orthotics and wheelchairs, or through small environment modifications to make access to their house, bathrooms, schools and the wider community more available. These staff members also work with local schools to have children with a disability re-enrolled, as many do not attend school, and help break down the negative stigma associated with a disability by providing staff support.

During the dry season the clients are brought to the KATILOSA centre in Darasula for meetings and support groups which engenders community spirit amongst this generally isolated and stigmatized sub-community. Many of KATILOSA's clients and their families had never received support before due to limited services available in this fledgling country, and as a result have not known how to care for their children with disabilities nor understood the high intellectual capacity of those who are non-verbal. KATILOSA is changing lives and breaking down barriers.

In 2018 KATILOSA provided regular support to over 150 families with a member who has a disability and reintegrated 50 children back into schooling in their local area. The benefits that are achieved are wide ranging and encompass many areas of life – social, emotional, educational and physical. Long term, through repeat visits and implementation of treatment and action plans, the beneficiary's mobility is often improved, their support from family and their community strengthened, assistive devices sourced, and those of school age re-integrated back into school where possible.

Supporting the KATILOSA program will provide vital funds to support community-based rehabilitation and inclusive education for children and young adults with a disability in the Baucau Sub-district of Timor-Leste.



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Balay Banaag The Philippines (PH0021)

Balay Banaag is located in Davao City and has been in operation since 2010. Balay Banaag is a residential centre that provides care and support for the female children of prostitutes. There are currently ten girls in the care of Balay Banaag aged between 6 and 18 years old. Most of the children do not know who their father is and many have suffered physical and emotional abuse because of their upbringing.



Balay Banaag undertakes five key activities that contribute to strengthen the rights and future of the female children of prostitutes:

1. Facilitate formal elementary and high school education for the Balay Banaag children
2. Provide psychosocial counselling and values formation for the Balay Banaag children
3. Conduct skills training for the Balay Banaag and community children
4. Conduct parenting classrooms in the community
5. Collaborate with government agencies, schools and other organisations for resource mobilization

Children's participation plays an important role in managing Balay Banaag. The center runs through donations and so it is expected that everyone participates in domestic duties.

The Marist Sisters, who coordinate the program, have worked with vulnerable young females in the region for many years. Supporting Balay Banaag will help the Sisters protect women and children from violence and abuse. Help us support the future of these girls.

Meet Maria from Timor-Leste (ET0017)

Support for Katilosa helps students like Maria gain access to education.

“Maria” is 14 and is the seventh of nine children. Her parents were farmers and died while she was very young and they came from a small village in Buibau.

Maria was not born with a disability. At age three she became ill with a very high fever. She was treated at the local hospital and discharged while still unable to walk. KATILOSA staff discovered her situation nine months later. Until then, Maria was confined to her family home due to the stigma that disability brings in East Timorese culture.

KATILOSA provided rehabilitation services, a community of friends and a support network to both Maria and her family. While Maria still struggles she continues to increase her independence. She is now able to walk, bathe, dress herself and go to school. Maria is now in fifth grade and enjoys the opportunity to learn and play with her peers.

The change in Maria’s circumstances would not have been possible without the crucial work of KATILOSA and the support of Australian donors. Maria and her family are forever grateful.

To help KATILOSA continue to support children like Maria visit:

<https://bit.ly/2PNGpIU>

