

# TIMOR-LESTE POSITION PAPER



**\$1,000,000 AUD** COMMITMENT IN 2017

**133 OUT OF 188 COUNTRIES** HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDEX\*

**1.2 MILLION (2014)** POPULATION\*

## Strategic Directions

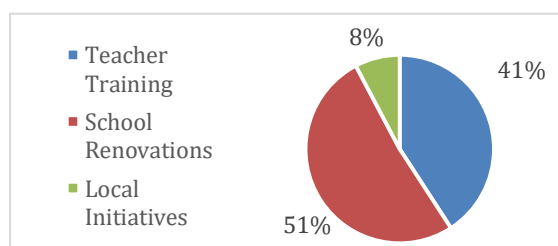
Australian Marist Solidarity's priority in Timor-Leste is education in all its forms. We seek to support and strengthen the education sector through a multipronged intervention aimed at:

- Providing quality teacher training at the Marist-run Teacher Training College (ICFP)
- Improving learning environments by renovating and rebuilding rural schools
- Supporting non-formal local education initiatives that supplement existing formal education pathways

Our partners are focused on achieving Sustainable Development Goal Four by ensuring that education is available and equitable to all. We focus our work in Baucau and the surrounding districts and align our approach with national targets and priorities within the Diocese of Baucau.

## Commitment

A total of \$502,473 was sent to Timor-Leste projects in 2016 in the following categories.



## Program Highlights

- 55 newly qualified teachers graduated from ICFP
- A three-classroom building was built at Abafala Catholic Primary School providing 233 students with an enhanced learning environment, one of two such projects in 2016
- 34 children with a disability were part of the KATILOSA community-based rehabilitation program
- Over 500 children attended after-school classes across three centres
- 20 young people learnt carpentry skills that boosts their employability

## Our Vision

Australian Marist Solidarity will continue to support non-formal local education programs that provide a safe place for children to learn as we believe in the power of grassroots initiatives. Injecting new teachers into the fledgling education sector is critical, as is the upgrading of school infrastructure, and both will remain priorities into the future. A 15-year presence in Timor-Leste will be boosted in 2017 when work begins on the construction of the first Marist School.