

Instituto Católico para a Formação de Professores (ICFP)

Teachers Training College, Baucau, Timor-Leste

Preamble

This report has been written for the period of the 1st December 2017 to the 31st August 2018 and documents the activities of ICFP. The three core objectives which combine to improve the education system in Timor-Leste are providing qualified teachers, upskilling current teachers and growing the organisational capacity at ICFP.

Objective 1: Educational institutes in Timor-Leste are strengthened with qualified teachers

Forty-eight students graduated with a Bachelor of Teaching in February 2018. In August the Ministry of Education asked these students to supply their Curriculum Vitae and it is anticipated that many of them will be offered employment.



There are currently 170 male and female students at ICFP undertaking the Bachelor of Teaching course; 69 first year, 50 second year and 51 third year. There are also 55 students studying the Licenciatura da Educação, a 4th year add-on raising the course to a Bachelor of Education equivalent in Australia through intensive sessions with a mentor.

Objective 2: Educational institutes in Timor-Leste are strengthened through upskilling of current teachers

A second round of four leadership training sessions were carried out for more than 60 school directors, coordinators and potential female leaders, to assist them to mentor their staff. Peer Learning groups met twice each month up until the end of August. There were four cluster groups in Baucau and three in Viqueque. At their meetings the teachers discussed lesson plans, what worked and what did not, and gave feedback to those giving demonstration lesson to peers. Staff from the accompaniment program attended when these meetings were held on a Saturday.



Continued school visits with monitoring and accompaniment have resulted in improved teaching and learning strategies, based on the new curriculum in 42 schools in the rural areas in Baucau and Viqueque. Until the end of August, classroom observations continued each week with feedback from the mentors who observed the teachers.

Objective 3: Institutional capacities of ICFP are strengthened

Almost all ICFP staff have completed their Masters' degrees. Two are currently studying with the Australian Catholic University, while two others are in the process of being enrolled to study Masters' degrees in Teaching Portuguese in Brazil in 2019. Another teacher is preparing to do advanced studies in TESOL through Griffith University in Brisbane, Australia.



The President and Vice-Director (Quality Assurance) are both studying Portuguese; the President is virtually a fluent speaker and the Vice-Director is making impressive progress. There are now two English classes – one in first year and one in second year. Several students are quite fluent and many hope to become English teachers, capable of teaching in years 7-9. Five staff have completed academic research papers which will be sent to various publishing groups for possible inclusion in educational magazines. Copies of their research papers will be sent to the Government.

English is being taught being offered in Years 1 and 2. One English lecturer has completed her study a Certificate III in the English language in Dili, while the other English teacher will go to Australia In December for a second session of 3 months to complete intensive English opportunities, and to learn strategies for the teaching of English as a second language. The ICFP director is tackling the maintenance of 3 languages in the workplace. An "in-house" rule requires staff (who can) to converse with each other in Portuguese, English and Tetum at various times during each day. With Portuguese time being 8.00-10.30, English 10.30am to 12.00 and Tetum from 2pm to 5pm.

Thank you for your commitment to improving education in Timor-Leste by supporting the students of ICFP. In a country where 45% of the population in 2020 is expected to be aged 14 and under, the need for qualified primary teachers is of the utmost importance.