

# Ba Futuru Annual Report 2015



using innovative approaches to  
**reduce violence,  
protect children,  
empower women and  
inspire young learners**

## Message from the Director

Ba Futuru positively transformed the lives of thousands of Timorese people through our 2015 programming. We strengthened our partnership with the government of Timor-Leste, especially the Ministry of Social Solidarity (MSS) and the Ministry of the Interior (Mol), working closely on security and protection issues, as well as developing the Hametin Familia Parenting Program. Reducing violence, protecting children, empowering women and inspiring young learners are the key pillars of Ba Futuru's exciting new Strategic Plan for 2015-2020 that was launched in October 2015.

Our plan focuses on how we can work alongside individuals, schools, communities and the government to create a Timor-Leste free of violence, where all citizens, especially women, children and young people, can engage meaningfully in the country's development in a peaceful, positive and productive way.

Ba Futuru will continue to utilize a range of innovative approaches - including visual arts, drama, theater and film - to ensure we make progress on our four key pillars. Our highly successful *Feto Fantástico* film series is a great example of our innovative approach to work.

Together we can create a positive future for Timor-Leste!

**Juliana 'Lica' Marcal, Director**



**"I find myself talking regularly about Ba Futuru's work, as its importance becomes ever so evident in all parts of the world..."**

**Guilherme Braganca, prior Ba Futuru volunteer now working in Cape Verde**

# 2015 Highlights

The *Feto Fantástico* films revolve around Timor-Leste's first superhero, a strong Timorese role model, who appears in escalating conflict situations and helps the parties resolve conflict. Now *Feto Fantástico* has a new side kick, *Mane Matenek!* He is helping men and boys to realize that violence is not the answer!



"Husbands don't have the right to hit women because women have the same rights as men, if he hits [her], that's already domestic violence, and the police will arrest him."

Male high school student at *Feto Fantástico* film workshop



"Before I used a lot of physical punishment... I didn't know other methods of responding to student misbehavior. But since I participated in the Ba Futuru teacher trainings, I use the new [non-violent] methods that I learned and I have found they work very well. They make my job easier and more fun, and I can see that the students are more engaged, relaxed and actively involved in their classes."

Female teacher from Ba Futuru's High School Transformation Project

In 2015 more than 900 young people, parents, women, police, teachers, community leaders and civil society actors gained new knowledge and skills from intensive training workshops through Ba Futuru's various projects, and more than 10,000 audience members received important information through film and theater roadshows across the country of Timor-Leste. In 2015 Ba Futuru's work:

- Spread strategies to prevent interpersonal violence and gender-based violence through two new *Feto Fantástico* films reaching 10,000s of people via television and more than 3,000 through roadshows.
- Completed the development and piloting of a comprehensive teacher-training curriculum, with a focus on participatory and child-centred teaching methods and positive classroom management, supporting quality education. This will now be scaled up over the next few years.
- Provided conflict resolution training-of-trainers for 65 youth workers.
- Provided 141 educators, parents, police, civil society actors, and community leaders with the knowledge and skills to implement community-based protection, access the formal justice system and increase their understanding of violence and physical punishment.
- Equipped children with skills on violence prevention and protection, and knowledge on how to access vital assistance, while also empowering them to perform 6 theater pieces on child rights, and the eradication of violent discipline.
- Empowered 137 women representatives on local councils in Bobonaro, Baucau, Ainaro, and Oecussi with enhanced confidence, effective leadership ability, and skills for conflict analysis and transformation.
- Utilized innovative theatrical approaches to bring more than 3,500 audience members essential information on the law against domestic violence. Prior to the performance, 59% of audience members reported that they knew about the law but only 6% could explain it; after the performance, 99% of audience members surveyed reported that they knew about the law and 72% could explain it accurately.
- Developed a new teacher training curriculum with a GIZ consultant on conflict mitigation and non-violent communication, and provided trainings to vocational high schools in Baucau and Covalima.
- Transformed Nicolau Lobato and 99 Atauro high schools through providing teacher training, strengthening governance mechanisms, infrastructure upgrades including the creation of IT labs, and the incorporation of peace education, life skills, student clubs and inclusiveness scholarships. Next a how-to film documenting the project's progress will be produced as a knowledge-sharing tool for stakeholders.
- Provided 10 low-income children with a free high-quality preschool education through an enriching and stimulating learning environment focusing on the most important stage of development for brain growth and laying the foundation for their success in life.
- Created a new theater piece shifting attitudes on early marriage and child rights engaging 4,000+ audience members through 16 performances. While prior to the performance only 63% of audience members believed that early marriage destroys a child's future and could list an example of why, afterwards 95% of those interviewed reported that it destroys a child's future and could list an example of why this is the case.
- Designed a parenting program using a Communication for Development approach with Rain Barrel Communications, which will be rolled out across Timor-Leste through MSS over the years to come.

# Featured Project



Major shifts in attitudes of influential community members, including police officers, government workers, and community leaders, have occurred so far in **10** municipalities as a result of Ba Futuru's Consolidating Peace and Democracy Initiative (CPDI) project. This three year project which focuses on conflict mitigation, civic education and gender-based violence prevention began in 2015, and so far **10** trainings have been held empowering **260** individuals as local peace advocates.

Sustainability of the project is being delivered through the development of a team of **6** skilled government conflict prevention facilitators in the National Directorate for Prevention of Community Conflict (DNPCC) under the Mol by offering them intensive training and mentoring throughout the project.

After the **10** community trainings held so far:

- **All** of the participants reported that it is better to resolve conflicts without the use of violence and **all** could list non-violent ways of solving conflicts; compared with before the trainings when only **65%** of the participants reported that it is better to resolve conflicts without the use of violence and only **32%** could list non-violent ways of resolving conflicts.
- **All** of the participants reported in follow up surveys that they had shared the information they learned, and had used the conflict mitigation knowledge or skills from the training in their daily lives. **99%** of the participants also reported that they had helped resolve conflicts with their friends, family and community since attending the training. Furthermore, **100%** of the participants expressed that after they attended the training they have had positive changes in their behaviour.

In 2015 **18** DNPCC mediators and focal points assisted in organizing trainings at the local level. Following these trainings they reported being better equipped to mitigate conflict in their communities:

- Before the trainings only **78%** of government mediators and focal points thought it was better to solve conflict without the use of violence but only **33%** could list examples. Whereas after the trainings, **all** of these government mediators and focal points thought it was better so solve conflict without the use of violence and could accurately list examples.

The skills developed and behavior change that took place on behalf of government mediators, focal points, facilitators, as well as police officers, young people, and community leaders will continue to positively impact their communities over the long run as demonstrated below:

- A government focal point reported, "When dealing a land dispute together with focal points, a mediator and police officers, we used mediation techniques from the training to resolve the conflict. Since the training I have resolved **17** cases, and reported them to the MOI."
- An officer in the Ministry of Justice reported that after the training he stopped using violence against his children and wife when they did things wrong, and assisted others to resolve family conflicts as well.

"I was so surprised by the theatre performance that I watched, since violence always happens in many families. Until now, I thought that domestic violence is normal. However, this theater performance opened my mind. Violent behavior between a husband and wife is a public crime and it violates our law."

**54-year-old male farmer from Ainaro commented after a theater performance. This piece was performed 10 times for more than 3,500 audience members.**



Ba Futuru's programs change the way that men and boys think and act in regard to the use of gender-based violence!

"I can now understand about human rights, domestic violence, and gender-based violence... when I come out of this prison, I will never repeat the mistakes of the past."

**A man serving a 10 year sentence for sexual violence**



# Projects and Donors 2015



"Throughout my participation in the workshop and festival, I learned many things about consideration for the rights of women and children. I learned that women can also be free to make decisions. I learned that women and children need to be respected absolutely everywhere, including in public places. Then I went home and shared the information about gender-based violence with my family and friends."

– Festival male theater artist

## PeaceJam Conference

In 2015 Ba Futuru hosted our first 2-day PeaceJam conference, with Nobel Peace Laureate and former President **Jose Ramos-Horta** providing a keynote speech.

In attendance were **160** youth (85 female and 75 male) from **10** municipalities of Timor-Leste, as well as international students. Participants increased their awareness of peace building and Nobel Laureates' work. By the end of the conference 88% had a plan for undertaking service learning projects for protection and peace building in their communities.



## A Dili Free of Violence



More than **130** budding artists had a chance to explore the potential of the arts to influence one of the world's most pervasive human rights abuses, gender-based violence, through this project. A series of workshops covering theater, photography and installation, visual arts, creative writing, dance and music culminated in the production of performances, exhibitions and an artistic magazine, which formed the basis of **7** festival events. Close to **1,000** people attended the events that comprised *Festival Laloran* including high level officials. The principal highlight of this initiative was the massive commitment of young artist's talents, time, and diligence. This initiative was organized in partnership with Rede Feto and UN Women.

## 2015 Projects and Donors

- **Children Against Violence Project** funded by **Child Fund**.
- **Consolidating Peace and Democracy Initiative** funded by **Misereor** and the **British Embassy in Jakarta**.
- **Early Childhood Development Initiative** funded by donations from **individuals** and the **New Zealand Embassy's Head of Mission Fund**.
- **Stars Impact Award - Ba Futuru** received the Runner Up award of \$60,000 USD from the **Stars Foundation** for the category of protection in Asia.
- **Improving Understanding of the Formal Protection System** funded by **Timor-Leste's Ministry of Social Solidarity**.
- **Preventing GBV Through Community Theatre** funded by **Canada Fund**.
- **Stopping Gender-Based Violence Youth Engagement Activities** funded by **The Asia Foundation**.
- **The Design and pilot of the Strengthening Families Parenting Program** with **Rain Barrel Communications**, **Timor-Leste's Ministry of Social Solidarity** and **UNICEF**, and with financial support from **H&M Foundation**.
- **The High School Transformation Project** funded by **Oaktree**.
- **The Pathway to Justice Project** funded by the **UNDP**.
- **Women as Agents of Peace Through Economic Empowerment** in partnership with **Women's Campaign International** and funded by the **U.S. Department of State**.
- **Youth PeaceJam Conference** funded by the **British Embassy in Jakarta** and **PeaceJam Foundation**.
- **Youth Violence Prevention Feto Fatastiku Film** and **Conflict Mitigation Training for Vocational Education** funded by **GIZ**.

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