



South East Asia Regional Cooperation in Human Development

SEARCH strengthens legal and institutional mechanisms for the promotion and the protection of the rights of children, ethnic minorities and migrant workers in Southeast Asia. Working with three regional partners, as well as national civil society organizations, the project encompasses seven countries: Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Philippines, Laos and Timor Leste.

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Children & Peace-building in Timor Leste

SEARCH has conducted participatory action research in Timor Leste with children aged 10-15 and their communities - care providers, teachers, peers, local leaders - to explore violence through the perspective of children and in the context of their lived realities, to understand how communities resolve conflicts. This research will contribute to the development of contextualized tools to strengthen local capacity on the civic engagement of children and their communities in child protection and the broader promotion of human rights.



The project has been implemented by SEARCH partner, the International Institute for Child Rights and Development (IICRD) through the SEARCH Allocations for Innovations in Rule of Law (AFI) funding mechanism. With endorsement from the Ministry of Social Solidarity, Directorate for National Reinsertion, Child Protection Department and UNICEF Timor Leste, SEARCH has been working in Timor Leste in collaboration with Judicial Systems Monitoring Program (JSMP) and other organizations focussed on children (e.g. Care, BaFuturu)

Through the application of IICRD's Triple A Child Rights and Community Development approach the project brings together the voices and experiences of 90 children aged 10-15 and their communities (care providers, teachers, peers, local leaders) in three Aldeias in the districts of Dili, Lautem, and Covalima to:

- Gain a better understanding of violence from the perspective of children;
- Better understand how violence impacts children, their family and community;

- Identify informal and formal mechanisms and support systems to address violence in the lives of children and their communities (prevention, protection, promotion of non-violence);
 - Identify opportunities/risks of harmonizing customary law relating to violence prevention, child protection and the natural support networks for children;
 - Identify violence prevention and protection strategies that build on the strengths and capacities of children their communities and culture; and
 - Work with children, their communities, and child serving agencies to develop capacity building tools to strengthen the civic engagement of children and their communities in child protection and the broader promotion of human rights.
- 90 children aged 10-15 engaged in Triple A activities in 3 districts in Timor Leste (Suai, Los Palos, Dili) to understand their lived reality
 - Training of 4 youth leaders in Triple A Methodology
 - Project support from the Ministry of Social Solidarity and UNICEF
 - Further capacity building opportunities in Timor Leste including:
 - Child and Family Welfare System's Building with the Ministry of Social Solidarity (see overview below)
 - Child Rights and Protection Training for JSMP

THE FUTURE OF CHILDREN

I want a future where...
 We respect each other
 We listen to each other
 We discipline each other
 We love each other

To create this future we must...
 Discipline our friends
 Respect our friends
 Listen to our friends
 Love our friends

Girl 12 yrs