



Stabilisation of Food Security
for the Promotion of Peace in
Rural Areas of Timor Leste

GTZ-FSP
POBox 60, Dili
Timor Leste

Mobile Phone:
++670-7241452

Email:
<brigitte.podborny-sugiono@gtz.de>

To whom it may concern

Your Reference

Our Reference

Date
9 April 2007

Reference – Concept Paper by HIAM Health for a Children's Malnutrition Rehabilitation and Education Centre, Dili

The German Technical Cooperation (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) GmbH) is the leading German implementation agency for governmental bi-lateral cooperation programmes. Since 2002, I am responsible for the Food Security Programme (FSP) Timor Leste that is implemented within the framework of the Timor Leste – German government cooperation. The focus of the FSP is improving household food security through better availability of locally produced food crops, improved purchasing power, and an improved nutrition situation of rural households. My lesson learnt from promoting change in nutrition behaviour is that the main reasons for malnutrition in Timor Leste are poor child care, unbalanced consumption habits, and ignorance towards nutrition and health issues.

Therefore, learning of the propose Rehabilitation and Education Center in Dili, I herewith do recommend the idea because it goes beyond the mere recovery of severely malnourished children. It takes account of the children's circumstances at home and intensively addresses caretakers. The proposed action has a good chance to raise the nutrition awareness of households that are severely affected by malnutrition. The subsequent follow-up to overcome the family's specific cause of vulnerability is feasible to produce models of improved behaviour, especially in neighbourhoods, and for communities in general.

The comparative advantage of the proposed action is the focus on target groups that are already suffering from the results of severe malnutrition. The underlying assumption that someone who has experienced a failure is more open to suggestions for improvement is valid and key to reduce the prevailing ignorance for nutrition issues. In the longer term, the actions of the Rehabilitation and Education Center will have a good chance to produce qualitatively more significant impact than nutrition awareness campaigns in general – given that the Center will have motivated and skilled personnel.



Brigitte Podborny

GTZ - Team Leader
Food Security Programme Timor Leste