



Rotary in Action

East Timor News

September 2006

Alola Foundation

The First Lady of Timor-Leste, **Kirsty Sword Gusmao** is the Patron and Chairman of the Alola Foundation.

The Alola Foundation was established in 2001 to raise awareness of and campaign against the sexual and gender-based violence experienced by women and young girls in Timor-Leste.

In response to the needs identified by Timorese women, the Alola Foundation has grown to provide services and programs in areas such as advocacy, employment, education, maternal and child health and humanitarian assistance.

These programs are funded by supporters from all over the world, both individuals and institutions, small and large. We greatly value your assistance with our vital work.

The **Alola Foundation** implements programs aimed at empowering women in Timor-Leste.

We would like to thank our friends and supporters for their continuing support of Alola during the recent troubles in Dili. We have been truly heartened to know that you are concerned for us and the plight of women and children in East Timor as our fledgling democracy finds its way. The women and children of East Timor are again suffering the traumas of violence and displacement.

Many of our staff have lost their homes during the recent troubles and as the street violence continues, many remain in IDP camps.

Alola intends to play a key role in what will be a monumental relief and relocation effort. If you can **help us**, please donate through Rotary or directly. Your money will go directly to bring the lives of women and children back to normal as soon as possible and our neighbours in East Timor will be grateful for your assistance.

Alola Foundation Strategies 2006

Program Managers in Timor-Leste have developed several implementation strategies for each of our five program areas:

- Maternal & Child Health;
- Education;
- Economic Development;
- Advocacy; and
- Management.

Alola Foundation Mission Statement:

To contribute to a reduction in the maternal and child mortality rates by promoting good health for women and their communities.

Strong Women Strong Nation, empowering women in Timor-Leste, is our working document for program management in Timor-Leste. Common strategies across all Alola programs are:

- Strengthening community participation in development
- Promoting human rights
- Increasing the status of women
- Strengthening community participation in development
- Creating employment opportunities

Maternal & Child Health Strategies

- Promote exclusive breastfeeding for first six months;
- Create a supportive environment for improving women's & children's health;
- Strengthen community action for women's health;
- Increase health service competencies

Kirsty Sword Gusmao will take the opportunity at this **breakfast** to acknowledge the work of **Rotary in Timor Leste** in particular over the past 5 years; with such enterprises as the ET Roofing Company, the SAVI rebuilding projects, the many water and sanitation projects, agricultural projects, the Alola Foundation Friendship Schools and Maternity Packs projects. **Rotary** has made and is continuing to help make a real difference in East Timor for the poorest and most disadvantaged groups.

Ms Gusmao will also update you on the Living Memorial School rebuilding project to be launched in Dare.

Don't miss out on this unique opportunity. BOOK NOW.



District 9800

Rotary in Action : East Timor

Supported by: DG Bernie Walshe (District 9800)

Coordinating Club: Rotary Club of Kew,

Contact: Jill Forsyth on 0412 171 353

Email: jill.forsyth@formax.com.au