

Briefing report

Education Review Office (ERO): ERO scoping visit to Timor-Leste

Date	6 November 2018
Security Level	N/A
ERO Priority	Medium
ERO Reference	M18-58
Date requested	ERO initiated
Date due	ERO initiated
Proactive release	Recommended

Addressee	Action sought	Deadline
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Minister of Education

It is recommended that you:

- a) **note** that ERO has agreed to send a two-person education evaluation team to Timor-Leste as a scoping visit
- b) **note** that the purpose of the visit is to assist Timor-Leste Ministry of Education and Culture officials, in-country New Zealand Aid Programme officials, and their stakeholders, to scope priorities for developing policy and systems to build education evaluation capability in Timor-Leste
- c) **note** that the ERO evaluation team will be away from New Zealand from Friday 30 November to Saturday 8 December 2018
- d) **note** that this scoping visit is partially funded by HANDS (*Halimar, Aprende, no Deskobre; Susesu*).



Attachments:

**Education Review Office (ERO):
ERO scoping visit to Timor-Leste**



Comments:

Minister's Office to complete

Noted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Seen	<input type="checkbox"/>
Approved	<input type="checkbox"/>
Referred to:	
Date signed by Minister:	9.11.18

Our Ref: M18-58

6 November 2018

Hon Chris Hipkins
Minister of Education

ERO scoping visit to Timor-Leste

Purpose

1. This briefing provides you with information regarding a forthcoming ERO scoping visit to Timor-Leste.
2. A two-person education evaluation team will meet with Timor-Leste Ministry of Education and Culture officials, in-country New Zealand Aid Programme officials, and their stakeholders, to scope priorities for developing policy and systems to build Timor-Leste education evaluation capability.

Background

3. New Zealand has a strong bilateral engagement with Timor-Leste, especially through the provision of development assistance.
4. In May 2016, ERO met with officials from the Timor-Leste Ministry of Education and Culture, including the Inspector General, in Wellington. This meeting focused on ERO providing advice regarding what Timor-Leste pre-school (early learning) inspectors could do to support improvement in the provision of early childhood education in Timor-Leste.
5. In May 2018, ERO learned, through the HANDS (*Halimar, Aprende, no Deskobre; Susesu*) liaison officer in Timor-Leste, that following the 2016 meeting with ERO, the Ministry “has made some really effective gains” in pre-school inspection, and that the Inspector General is looking to expand the good practice of pre-school evaluation to other education sub-sectors.

6. The HANDS programme is a Timor-Leste early childhood education programme with significant aid funding from New Zealand and strong links with the Timor-Leste Ministry of Education and Culture, in-country New Zealand Aid Programme, and New Zealand Embassy officials.
7. In June 2018, ERO corresponded with Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) officials about the request from HANDS to provide advice on quality assurance to improve evaluation in early childhood education, and the possibility of funding to cover ERO costs. MFAT thanked ERO for considering the proposal, noting that “strengthening Early Childhood Education in Timor-Leste remains a pressing need for the population and a key priority for the New Zealand Aid Programme’s work [there]”; and that funding via HANDS was available for travel, accommodation, and per diem expenses.
8. ERO has now been asked to assist Timor-Leste Ministry of Education and Culture officials, in-country New Zealand Aid Programme officials, and their stakeholders, to scope priorities for developing policy and systems to build education evaluation capability in Timor-Leste.
9. Consequently, ERO has agreed to undertake the scoping visit this year – hosted and partially funded by HANDS (travel and accommodation costs, per diem allowance).
10. This scoping review work is a standalone project. Any additional or future work by ERO will be on a full cost recovery basis.

Evaluation team and travel arrangements

11. The evaluation team will involve two senior ERO staff with extensive evaluation experience in New Zealand and in international contexts.
12. It will involve a week’s work in Dili.

Recommendations

13. It is recommended that you:
 - a) **note** that ERO has agreed to send a two-person education evaluation team to Timor-Leste as a scoping visit **noted**
 - b) **note** that the purpose of the visit is to assist Timor-Leste Ministry of Education and Culture officials, in-country New Zealand Aid Programme officials, and their stakeholders, to scope priorities for developing policy and systems to build education evaluation capability in Timor-Leste **noted**

- c) **note** that the ERO evaluation team will be away from New Zealand from Friday 30 November to Saturday 8 December 2018 **noted**
- d) **note** that this scoping visit is partially funded by HANDS. **noted**
(Halimar, Aprende, no Deskobre; Susesu).



Nicholas Pole
Chief Executive

NOTED/APPROVED



Chris Hipkins
Minister of Education

9 / 11 / 18