



Preschool lays a strong foundation for later education



Preschool 2014 main Activities, Challenges, Progress and 2015 plan

Ministry of Education



Pre-School Education

- Pre-School Education is not compulsory
- For children aged three till they enter primary education
- The Directorate of Pre-School Education was first created in 2010
- Ministry of Education focuses on Preschool Education
- There are approximately 16000 children enrolled in pre-school (10-15%)
- There are 267 permanent pre-school teachers and 316 temporary contract teachers
- 281 preschool; public=154 private= 132

MAIN ACTIVITIES

- Implement the new National Policy of Preschool Education
- Develop and implement the new Curriculum of Preschool Education
- Develop the new system of Accreditation/licensing of existent Preschools and the new ones
- Formative Assessment training for preschool is implemented this year
- Plan implementation infrastructure, and equipment suited to preschools
- Implement school concessions and school feeding program
- Develop and adopt new teachers training programs (pre-service and in-service)
- HANDS Program

Implement the New National Policy of Preschool Education

Progress

- Preschool Policy approved in the Council of Minister July 2013
- Re-approved June 2014
- April 2014 Preschool Directorate began to socialize and distribute the documents in 13 districts

Challenges

- Not enough ability of audiences (teachers, coordinators and parents) to absorb information contained in the policy document
- Due to lack of financial support and insufficient quality human resources preschool directorate unable to continue the follow up sessions (monitoring and evaluations)

Develop and implement the new Curriculum of Preschool Education

Progress

- Decree law for preschool curriculum finalised, approved by the Council of Ministers in June 2014
- Curriculum document completed, piloted, Tetun edited
- Prescriptive lessons plan for both group A and B is in good progress

Challenges

- Lack of financial support and experienced, skilful staff make the implementation of this law difficult
- Lacking of well-trained staff and mentoring challenge to the curriculum training and implementation
- Lack of materials to support the curriculum document

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- Pre-pilot for preschool curriculum implemented successfully in 4 preschools
- Preschool curriculum piloted in 2 preschools; one preschool implemented successfully, one will continue next week.
- New curriculum document reflects Timor Leste context
- New form of preschool certificate and cardeneta
- Developed 50-70% of the instructional materials proposed by the new curriculum
- Untrained and unskilful preschool teachers will have impact on the training and implementation process
- Hard to identify qualified trainers that are willing to support this curriculum training for longer term

Development of the new system of Accreditation/licensing of existing Preschools and the new ones

Progress

- ToRs for international consultant is developed
- ToRs for National consultant will be develop
- International consultant to write the law has been identified
- In-depth discussions re this issue is in progress
- Thank you UNICEF

Challenges

- Long term project 1 to 2 years project
- Dedicated consultant with special criteria in preschool area aren't easy to find
- Data collections is require in this task, how/will we be able to have data analysis expert??

Formative Assessment training for preschool is implemented this year

Progress

- MoE has mandated, this year, that pre-schools cannot carry out exams in the future.
- Tools for formative assessment developed and distributed in 13 districts
- Training at national and districts levels has been implemented successfully

Challenges

- Lack of monitoring and evaluations system
- Didn't have a proper follow up as no additional budget
- Lack of support from NGOs' or private trainers to support this training
- Large class sizes

Cont..

Progress

Challenges

- Teachers have low capacity to absorb and unsure how use the tools effectively
- Lack of trained teachers- even though they attended courses many of NGO training providers not accredited.
- No recruitment policy for new teachers

Plan implementation infrastructure, and equipment suited to preschools

Progress

- States in NESP to build 250 preschool every year
- 26 Mil project for school reconstruction schools in 13 districts, 6 preschools included
- 2240 sets of chairs and tables distributed earlier this year in 236 (2013 data) preschool in 13 districts

Challenges

- OGE not enough
- 26 Mil project is used and divided for 3 to 4 Ministries include Ministry of Education
- Some preschools did not have adequate space to keep the furniture

Implement school concessions and school feeding program

Progress

- This year Ministry of Education increased the cost for school feeding from 0.15c to 0.25 USD
- Ministry of Education also increased the school feeding cost from 0.50c to 0.75c USD
- Training for these two activities is currently going on

Challenges

- Teachers and/or preschool coordinators did not have capacity to manage the admin and the finance matter
- Lack of orientations and monitoring from national level
- Not enough capacity to write or produce good report, this impacted on late submission of the report to the district officer

Develop and adopt new teachers training programs (pre-services and in-services)

Progress

- HANDS programme
- Pre-service teachers framework will be developed
- Exams to be given to volunteer teachers

Challenges

- No pre-service training course for pre-school teachers prior to teaching.
- Low capacity of INFORDEPE staff and trainers
- Lack of understanding of developmental needs and learning styles of young children by INFORDEPE trainers (eg importance of Mother Tongue)



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Challenges

- NGO training providers not accredited
- Belief and practice that good pre-school teachers should be 'promoted' to teach in higher grades.

HANDS PROGRAMME

- The MoE have just signed off on an agreed 5 year programme with the NZ Govt which focuses on ECE, supports giving as follow;
- learning materials, playgrounds,
- pre-school teacher pre-service and in-service training, in corporate with INFORDEPE, UNTL, preschool programs implementer etc.
- parent education,
- media campaign,
- training of pre-school guidance inspectors; 26 PSGI will be hired this year to support preschool and basic education curriculum training-recruitment process is undergoing-PSGI will in turn support the pre-school teachers.

Brief Activities for 2015

- Will hold National Conference on "Early-Childhood Development" in the 2nd quarter of 2015.
- UNICEF Alternative Pre-School Programme – 2 years support for setting up alternative (not formal) pre-school programmes in Viqueque and Ermera (in non-Tetun speaking communities).
- 7 pilot preschools in two districts Aileu and Ermera
- CARE-LAFAEK magazine for pre-school, grade 1 and 2.
- Continue monitoring and mentoring the use of new preschool curriculum

Lessons Learned

- Portuguese is not an appropriate language to train our pre-school teachers.
- Need to conduct training in the teacher's district or school.
- We can't train pre-school, primary and secondary teachers together.
- We need well-trained ECE trainers to train our pre-school teachers
- Training isn't enough – teachers need guidance, mentoring and coaching to support the implementation of their training.

Thank you for listening

