

## Employing Young People in Community Cultural Development



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## Many Hands International

- Australian not-for-profit
- Places **CULTURE** at the centre of development
- Works as a counterpart to the State Secretariat for Culture, Timor Leste



## Culture and Sustainable Development

- John Hawkes: *'society's values are the basis upon which all else is built. These values and the ways they are expressed are a society's culture.'* (2001:1)
- Keith Nurse: *'[programs take a] non-deterministic approach that breaks out of progressivist, universalistic and dependency-creating development thinking and promotes self-reliance, social justice and ecological balance.'* (2006:38)

## Community Cultural Development in Timor Leste

- *'The various existing cultures should not be seen as elements opposed to development but instead as part of it... Because culture and traditions are dynamic processes, which change through time, a better understanding and incorporation of such elements in the process of modernizing the country will help developing a cultural identity for East Timor.'*  
(Secretario De Estado Da Cultura 2013: 4)

## Youth & employment in Timor Leste

Approximately:

- 1 in three people in Timor are 'youth'
- between 15,000 and 20,000 young Timorese enter the labour market each year
- 40% of young people are unemployed in the rural areas



## Fataluku Cultural Research Project

The Fataluku Cultural Research Project aims to preserve cultural heritage by:

- (1) Recording endangered forms of traditional cultural expression.
- (2) Building local capacity to preserve cultural heritage.
- (3) Providing Fataluku people an opportunity to view and learn more about their cultural heritage.

## Benefits to young people

- **Rico said:** 'I have the opportunity to learn about cultural practices and knowledge that I have heard of but never seen for myself. This is very good for me.' (personal communication, April 2013)



**Maria said:** 'I have worked with other international NGOs. Working with MHI is different because even though I am from Lospalos and am Fataluku I do not know all the cultures from our region. When I became part of the research team I began to learn about my own culture ...' (personal communication, April 2013)

## Benefits to young people



- access cultural knowledge
- new skills
- new networks

## Benefits to the community

- improved intergenerational relationships
- raised profile of young people



## Benefits to the organisation

- motivated team
- supportive local communities
- quality work
- time and cost effectiveness
- accountability



## Challenges/Issues of employing young people in CCD

- short funding period
- high level of support, training and mentorship required



## Conclusion

- Community cultural development can provide meaningful employment opportunities for young people in rural areas
- Multiple benefits are experienced by young people, community and the organisation



## More information



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