



# Supporting Teachers IN TIMOR-LESTE

A recent survey in Timor-Leste showed that at the end of grade one, 70% of children could not read a single word. Given that 71% of primary school teachers only have a high school education, and many have no formal qualifications, this outcome isn't so surprising.

ERFA's implementing partner, Mary Mackillop Today, provides training for teachers in teaching methodology, creative classroom set-up, and child development. This empowers teachers to provide quality education in the classroom for their students.

Project Coordinator Ivone Ximenes explains: "For example,

*we provide teachers with feedback from our observations, and actively demonstrate reading books to students. We also focus on strengthening the correct way to pronounce words".*

Follow up monitoring has shown teachers are implementing the new skills and using MMT national curriculum-aligned Tetun literacy resources. Through increasing teacher skills and knowledge, hundreds of children are now receiving quality education in safe and inclusive classroom environments, giving them the best possible start to their education. ■