



The Ainaro Project

Ainaro

Ainaro is a large district in central Timor with the capital, also called Ainaro, being approximately 5-6 hours away from Dili, the capital of Timor Leste (East Timor). There is one Senior High School in the whole district but it is only accessible to people who live in and around the town of Ainaro. There is a well established Girls Boarding College and a dilapidated Boys Boarding College. With a population of approximately 52,500 the current Senior High School graduation rate is 6%. (National Census 2004).

Our Partner

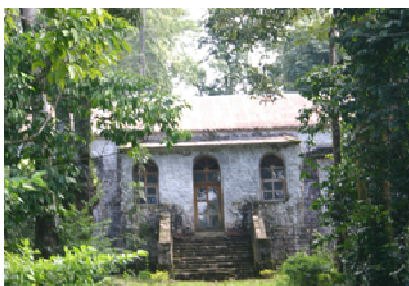
Timor Leste Vision (TLV) has recently signed a partnership agreement with the Parish of Ainaro with the goal of working together to meet the community's needs. In response to requests from the community, TLV committed to this project. This consists of renovating the Boys Boarding College and supporting the conversion of an abandoned building, Villa Maria, into a community centre/guest house which will be open to all, in and around Ainaro.

The Boarding House

The Boarding College, St Louis Gonzaga, caters for students from all over Timor Leste who would not otherwise have access to further their education. The boarding school is structurally sound with dorms (see picture) and facilities for approximately 100 students. There are also additional areas available for recreation and study which includes a small library. Our goal is to create a safe and comfortable learning environment which will encourage the students to reach their potential. This includes the expansion and resourcing of the library that will be accessible to the whole community.



Villa Maria



Villa Maria is a Portuguese building that has been abandoned. Once renovated, it has the capacity to cater for both a community centre and guest house. A guest house is an enterprising way to capitalise on the beauty of Ainaro while providing the necessary resources to operate a multifaceted Community Centre. This sustainable centre will provide opportunities for the local community to strengthen local capacity through practical education and training programs.

We are looking to form partnerships with both individuals and community groups in Australia to make the plans of the Ainaro community a reality. For more information or to get involved please contact Alison Whitelaw on 0411 010 643 or info@tlv.org.au

TLV and the community of Ainaro thank you

