



## Introduction

Timor-Leste is one of the countries which progress toward EFA since 2000 was not fully reflected in the 2015 Education for All Global Monitoring Report (GMR) due to a lack of sufficient enrolment data, in particular for pre-primary education. The country has reported the number of children enrolled at this level to the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS) only for the school years ending in 2002 and 2005. In order to monitor progress made by Timor-Leste across some of the EFA goals since 2000, the GMR Team used information published in different national sources, including the national EFA 2015 review report; the *Strategic Development Plan 2011-2030*<sup>1</sup>; and the *Situation Analysis of Children in Timor-Leste*<sup>2</sup>.

## Pre-primary education

In Timor-Leste, participation to pre-primary education was still very low in 2013, with only about 16% of children of 3-5 years old enrolled.

## Primary education

Participation in primary education has improved greatly, with Timor-Leste increasing its net enrolment ratio (NER) significantly from 67% in 2004 to 91% in 2013. Consequently, the country has moved from the category far from the universal primary enrolment target to an intermediate position.

Access to school is an important step to universal primary education, but it is equally important to ensure that all children, who enrol in primary education, complete it. However in Timor-Leste, early dropout remains a concern, with the survival rate to last grade of just 84% in 2010, making universal primary education still at some distance.

## Gender Parity

According to data published in the Timor-Leste EFA 2015 review report, the country has reached gender parity in primary education by 2013. The gender parity index (GPI) of the GER increased from 0.95 in 2004 to 1.00. While gender parity is achieved in enrolment, some disparity were observed in school retention, with girls slightly more likely than boys to reach the last grade of primary school, with survival grade to last of 85% and 82%, respectively, in 2010.

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<sup>1</sup> Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste, National Strategic Development Plan 2011-2030. Available at <http://timor-leste.gov.tl/wp-content/uploads/2011/07/Timor-Leste-Strategic-Plan-2011-20301.pdf> (Accessed 10<sup>th</sup> April 2015).

<sup>2</sup> Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste, UNICEF (2013). Situation Analysis of Children in Timor-Leste. Available at: [http://www.statistics.gov.tl/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/Situation\\_analysis\\_of\\_children\\_in\\_Timor-Leste.pdf](http://www.statistics.gov.tl/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/Situation_analysis_of_children_in_Timor-Leste.pdf) (Accessed 10<sup>th</sup> April 2015).

## **Conclusion**

The analysis of education data of Timor-Leste demonstrates that the country has made great stride toward universal primary enrolment over the period while reaching the gender parity target by 2013. Yet, universal primary education remains at some distance since about 10% of primary school age children were still not enrolled while to early dropouts continue to prevail. Moreover and in the context next global education agenda that embraces a lifelong learning perspective, more should be done to expand access to early childhood education for all children, in particular the most vulnerable that need it most.