PROMOTING and MONITORING MOTHER TONGUE-BASED MULTILINGUAL EDUCATION (MTB-MLE) IN TIMOR-LESTE

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Local Promotion from MoE

- Officials from Ministry of Education have regular meetings with the communities where EMBLI schools are functioning
- Ministry of Education takes initiative to go to other areas where they feel that EMBLI could be beneficial in order to have other schools enter the program
- Use other opportunities to do informal advocacy in the Ministry
- Advocacy at municipal level
Parents’ and Community comments

• “We are happy our children can read and write.”
• “We can be involved in our children’s education.”
• “We are proud because through EMBLI we can preserve our culture and language.”
• “The children and teachers can talk to each other and be involved in classroom discussions.”
• “This program helps our children understand their subjects better, even sciences and math. Through our mother tongue we can understand easier.”
Monitoring and evaluation

- Internal Monitoring and Assessment
- External Assessment
Internal assessment by EMBLI staff

- Pre-test and Post-test
- Classroom observations and evaluation
- Teacher self-evaluation form
M&E by MoE Staff
PRE & POST ASSESSMENT
Conclusion: Mid-line Assessment

• “MTB-MLE” pilot program: is generating the conditions to guarantee the right to an education which is relevant to the language and culture of children whose MT is not Tetun or Portuguese.
• It has made great progress in teacher training, in the methodologies of teaching and learning in the mother tongue and in producing educational materials in the mother tongue.
• It is also helping to develop an in-service teacher training strategy.

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Comparing Overall Performance on the CBA (Grades 1 and 2)

- **Effect size = 1.4**
- **t = 21.87; P = 0.000**
Comparing Overall Performance on the EGRA (Grades 1 and 2)

Effect size = 1.29
T = 12.51; P = 0.000
Comparing Performance on the EGRA for Children in PS B

- **Public PS B**: 2.18
- **EMBLI**: 22.58
Conclusion END-LINE Assessment

- The EMBLI program has doubled the academic performance of children attending schools in this program.
- The EMBLI program would be the appropriate choice if Timor-Leste wishes to significantly improve educational outcome in low-performing rural areas.
Observations at the Local Level
Lessons learned

- Parents, community and municipal education leaders are very happy with the progress of the children
- Decisions are made slowly, even in the face of good results
- High level advocacy is extremely important
- Government officials have to be convinced
- Working together with the government is very important
THANK YOU

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