



LAFAEK LEARNING MEDIA

BRINGING EDUCATION TO LIFE

Founded in 1945, CARE works in over 100 countries to save lives, defeat poverty, and achieve social justice. We have been working in Timor-Leste since 1994, and education is a core part of our programming. Lafaek Learning Media is central to this work. The first Lafaek magazines were distributed in 2001, and CARE now publishes four Lafaek magazines, with community magazine reaching more than half of the country's households. It is the first Tetum language publication with a national reach and provides a powerful educational resource for children, teachers and adults.

LAFAEK LEARNING MEDIA

Timor-Leste has made great gains in education since Independence in 2002, however low literacy and numeracy and high repetition rates remain a reality for many Timorese. 30% of men and almost 40% of women over the age of 15 are illiterate, while 70% of Grade 1 students and 40% of Grade 2 students cannot read any words in either Tetum or Portuguese.

Supported by the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, CARE International in Timor-Leste supports Timor-Leste's Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport (MOEYS) to promote the development of the education sector, improve children's learning outcomes and strengthen families' social and economic wellbeing through Lafaek Learning Media.

The four Lafaek magazines are the only reading material that reach all schools, students and communities in the most rural and disadvantaged areas, and have become an important supplementary learning material for students, teachers, and communities across the country. Developed in collaboration with the MOEYS, the Lafaek magazines align with the national curriculum and focus on improving literacy, numeracy and critical thinking; disability inclusion and girls' leadership; teaching methodologies; and household practices in agriculture, health, nutrition, inclusion and more.

Three editions of each of the four magazines are published each year, and content is now available on Lafaek's official website



LAFAEK KI'IK

Reaches **111,000+** Grades 1-2 pre and primary school students



LAFAEK PRIMA

Reaches **133,000+** Grades 3-6 primary school students

LAFAEK BA MANORIN

Reaches **12,000+** pre and primary school teachers

LAFAEK BA KOMUNIDADE

Reaches **105,000+** households—
half of Timor-Leste's households

LAFAEK INTO THE FUTURE

In order to strengthen the long-term sustainability of Lafaek, CARE aims to transition this flagship project to a social enterprise. Through this process, Lafaek will generate its own funding to augment donor support. Because Lafaek will remain true to its vision of reaching the most remote and disadvantaged schools and communities throughout the country at no cost to the user, CARE will pursue a hybrid model that will continue to rely on some donor subsidy, although at a much reduced level. CARE's management of Lafaek will transition to the Lafaek Social Enterprise, a local organisation under Timorese governance and management, over a five-year period from 2020 to 2024.

Lafaek Social Enterprise's vision:

Become *a media and communication leader for social change* in Timor-Leste.

Lafaek Social Enterprise's mission:

1. Promote literacy and numeracy
2. Promote gender equality
3. Promote social inclusion

LAFAEK'S APPROACH

Lafaek Learning Media grew from a single children's magazine published in 2001 in Tetum language to the nationally recognised resource it is today. First developed to support students and teachers, a 2010 evaluation found that 96% of teachers and 89% of students regularly used the magazines in school. To support family wellbeing, CARE introduced *Lafaek ba Komunidade* in 2010 to expand the magazines' reach to parents and low-literate adults, and an evaluation found that 71% of households who received the magazines used the ideas or information in their everyday lives. CARE added a fourth magazine targeting older primary school students in 2016 and established the Lafaek online platform in 2017, starting with a Lafaek Facebook page, which now has more than 145,000 followers.

Lafaek's publications are underpinned by three key approaches that ensure its relevance and amplify its impact:

1. Relevant, targeted content

Lafaek's key Stakeholders are involved in the review and approval process of each magazines. The student and teacher magazines are reviewed and approved by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports of Timor-Leste, while the New Zealand embassy reviews and approves the community magazine prior to printing to ensure the content aligns with the national curriculum and the development context.

2. Pre-testing of content

Magazine and online content is tested with a random selection of students, teachers and parents in a sample of very remote, remote and urban areas to ensure it is relevant, interesting and meets the needs of all segments of the target audiences.

3. Community dialogue

Three times a year, the Lafaek team visit 13 villages in 13 municipalities receiving the magazines to collect communities' feedback on content, further explain technical content on various topics and share ideas on applying the content in day-to-day life.

LAFAEK PROGRAMMING: INTEGRATING KEY LEARNINGS



Encourage students to take Lafaek Ki'ik, Prima and other reading materials home



Promote the "win-win" activities for parents or older siblings reading together with children



Encourage parents/adults to support children in school-related tasks

