

Literacy... it seems so simple but the difference it makes to our lives is immeasurable.

We can read letters from our friends and families, sign a child's report card, read the paper, learn about the world and our rights within it, know we have been given the right change in a shop, or just write someone a note. We can work, achieve independence and make sure our voices are heard. But for many women, this basic right is denied them.



"I'm learning how to read
So that I can read my life
I'm learning how to write
So that I can write my own destiny
I'm learning how to count
So that I can keep an account of my rights"

Kamla Bhasin, India

PHOTOS: ERIN MCKINNON

If you can read this...

iwda

international
women's development
agency inc.

There is a world
of opportunity
out there for
you!

Of the estimated 774 million illiterate adults
in the world, about 64% are women.¹

In East Timor 65% of women are illiterate.²

Since 2004 IWDA has worked in East Timor with project partner East Timor Young Women's Association (GFFTL) to provide civic literacy training to women in four remote villages of the Eastern Districts. For many of these women, this is the first opportunity they've had to learn to read and write.

\$45 pays for stationary for twenty women in a remote village to participate in literacy classes.

This year the project will expand to new villages and introduce income-generating activities and a financial literacy program.

Together, literacy, basic financial knowledge and new livelihood opportunities will give these women the skills and confidence to participate in local decision-making and leadership roles, and to improve their own and their families' circumstances.

\$120 pays a trainer to teach technical and business skills to literacy class participants.

About 80% of women in East Timor aged 30-54 years have not completed primary education.³

Children of a woman with 5 years of primary school education have a survival rate 40% higher than children of women with no education.⁴

\$275 pays for the creation of literacy materials tailored specifically for an East Timorese community, using local images and references to maximise relevance.

Women are often excluded from participation in public life and decision making in East Timor and they also lack access to information, particularly regarding their rights.

GFFTL are providing vital information and training on a range of issues including women's rights, domestic violence and democracy.

\$1,161 pays for a year of monitoring and support visits by a GFFTL field officer to the remote highlands of East Timor.

Literacy takes time... it doesn't happen overnight.

With your help IWDA can ensure that's what these women get – time to develop their skills and realise their potential! East Timor needs them.

1. http://www.uis.unesco.org/ev.php?URL_ID=6401&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201

2. [http://www.adb.org/Documents/CSPs/TIM/2003/csp0300.asp](http://www.adb.org/Documents/CSFs/TIM/2003/csp0300.asp)

3. 2004 Census of Population and Housing as cited in http://hdr.undp.org/en/reports/nationalreports/asiathepacific/timorlestet/timor_lestet_2006_en.pdf.

This is the most recent data available and as primary education is not targeted at this age group the figure will have changed little in the last four years.

4. http://www.unmillenniumproject.org/resources/fastfacts_e.htm

Yes! I want to assist women in
East Timor to achieve literacy...

I'd like to give a donation today of \$

I would like to support **Empower** – the monthly pledge program and give ongoing support.

I will give: \$25 \$50 \$100 \$ per month

I would like my monthly donations to be via:

Direct Debit An authorisation form will be sent to you. **Credit Card**

I would like information on leaving a bequest to IWDA

Please send me ___ Empower Brochures to distribute amongst my friends and colleagues

Donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible.

Title Name

Address

Postcode

Tel BH

Tel AH

Mobile

Email

I am paying by:

Cheque Credit Card

Credit Card:

Visa Bankcard Mastercard Amex Diners

Cardholder Exp.Date /

Card no

Signature

Date

"Educate your women and the
nation will take care of itself."

Sarojini Naidu (1879-1926) Indian social reformer

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IWDA endorses the National Privacy Principles.
For details please contact IWDA.

When women benefit, the whole community benefits

Should funds received exceed those required for IWDA's project with GFFTL, they will be used in IWDA's work to benefit women in developing countries.