

IMPACT  
**IMPACT**  
**REPORT**

**2023**



**Labarik Saudavel no Foin-sa'e Empoderadu ba Komunitade Forte**  
**Healthy Children and Empowered Youth for Strong Communities**



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**Our 2023 financial year:**  
**1 October 2022 – 30 September 2023**

Designed and produced by Anita Marques

# Introduction

**This report highlights World Vision Timor-Leste's impact through the 2023 financial year.**

I am extremely proud of our team, who work tirelessly every day to improve the lives of vulnerable children and families in Timor-Leste. Through reading this report, I hope you'll be encouraged by seeing the change possible in the lives of children and their caregivers. This change doesn't come about solely because of WVTL, but only because of the partnerships with our donors, community members, faith leaders, and local civil society.

In 2023, WVTL developed a new country strategy that will guide our organisation for the next five years. Our mission is **"healthy children and empowered youth for strong communities."**

Timorese children suffer from some of the highest rates of malnutrition globally, with the impacts experienced throughout their lives. WVTL will continue to work with children and their caregivers to ensure they eat nutritious diversified foods, have access to critical health services, and grow up in communities with safe clean drinking water.

The growing youth bulge in Timor-Leste is an opportunity to support and influence the next generation of change makers in the country. WVTL will empower Timorese youth to make the most of life's opportunities, to contribute to their communities and country and to model healthy positive relationships. I am extremely excited about how our partnerships with youth and youth organisations will organically grow and help contribute to the nation's development.

This year I travelled to each of our four area programmes. Each visit left me inspired by the resilience of communities and the commitment of our staff to walk alongside them to improve the well-being of children, youth and the nation. I hope you feel the same after reading this report.

**Dr. Jared Berends**  
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**On behalf of the**  
Senior Management Team  
World Vision Timor-Leste



## ABOUT US

World Vision Timor-Leste (WVTL) is a member of the global World Vision International partnership, dedicated to community development, humanitarian aid, and advocacy.

Our mission is **“Labarik saudavel no foin-sa’e empoderadu ba komunidade forte” - Healthy children and empowered youth for strong communities.**

Since 1995, WVTL has been active across seven municipalities: Aileu, Baucau, Bobonaro, Covalima, Oecusse, and Manatuto. WVTL currently has 143 employees. In the fiscal year 2023, our budget reached US\$ 5.6 million through major donors such as the Australian Government, New Zealand Government, KOICA, USAID, and UNICEF.

Nestled in Southeast Asia and Oceania, Timor-Leste is home to 1.3 million people, with 46% under the age of 14. Tragically, nearly 42% of Timorese live below the global poverty line, contributing to child stunting rates, that rank as the third highest in the world.

### OUR FOUR STRATEGIES



ENSURE CHILDREN ENJOY GOOD HEALTH, SAFE WATER, AND IMPROVED SANITATION



REDUCE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND CHILDREN



ENHANCE COMMUNITIES' RESILIENCE AND LIVELIHOODS



DISASTER RESPONSE

## WHERE WE WORK



# 2023 IMPACT



**38,338**

**People reached**



**7,873**  
**girls**



**8,399**  
**boys**



**12,492**  
**women**



**9,574**  
**men**



**1,028**  
**people with**  
**disabilities**



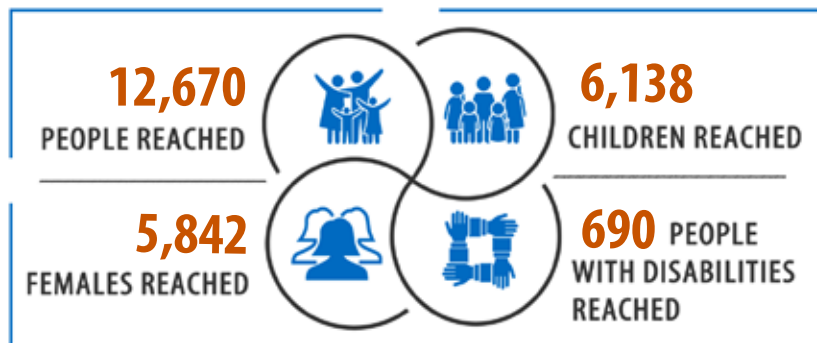
**14**  
**projects**  
**delivered with**  
**support from donors**







## IMPROVING HEALTH, WATER, AND NUTRITION



### Achievements:



**48 new parent clubs** established, surpassing the target of 28, with an additional 214 existing parent clubs supported.



**311 project and health staff** trained in parent club curriculum and disability programming.



**107 community health volunteers** (37 females and 70 males) were trained in maternal, newborn, child health and nutrition curriculum and timed and targeted counseling.



**10 superfood demonstration plots** were set up, with 43 farmers' groups trained in nutrition-sensitive agriculture, and an additional 110 farmers' groups supported in establishing or maintaining such plots.



**460 children** (242 girls and 218 boys) received regular immunisations.



**481 people** (313 females and 168 males) received COVID-19 vaccine.

**Parent clubs** are designed to improve the well-being of children by connecting parents, helping them learn new skills, and promoting positivity.

**Superfoods:** Mung beans, moringa, orange sweet potatoes, red and soy beans and eggs.

### Projects contributing to health and nutrition outcomes:

- Better Food Better Health (BFBH) – DFAT
- Better Child Nutrition in Bobonaro (BENU) – KOICA and WV Korea
- The Vaccine Access and Health Security Initiative (VAHSI) - DFAT

### Impact:

Family Health Promoters (Promotor Saúde Familiar [PSF]) and focal points conducted cooking demonstrations for 130 parent clubs for 1,579 members (females 1134, males 445) and distributed superfoods information, more than 3 times higher than the target 40 parent clubs due to strong personal interest and initiative shown by PSFs across all program areas.

Maternal and child health/nutrition: After timed and targeted counselling from community health volunteers, health posts reported that 615 pregnant women attended antenatal care, 598 women took iron supplements and 3,731 children were vaccinated.





## Miracle tree helps Lourdes' family thrive

**“Every morning, I cooked porridge for my kids to eat without mixing any other nutritious foods in it. I realised my children were weak and unhealthy even though they eat a big portion of porridge,” said Lourdes, 30 years old from Baucau municipality.**

In Timor-Leste, porridge is typically cooked every day for children's breakfast. Sometimes, parents continue to feed porridge to their children at lunch and dinner with no other food mixed in it. Some communities are unable to grow home gardens and diversify foods.

Seeing these issues, World Vision's Better Food Better Health project, funded by the Australian Government, approached communities in Baucau municipality to raise and consume nutritious food from their home gardens. The nutritious foods known as “superfoods” are mung beans, moringa, orange sweet potatoes, red and soy beans and eggs.

Cultural food taboos are also present across Timor-Leste. **“Initially, my family and I were prohibited from eating moringa even though it grows a lot in my village,”** said Mariano, 32 years old. **“From our belief, moringa could give us bad luck and our skin could become itchy after consuming it.”**

Lourdes and her husband Mariano were invited to one of World Vision's superfood demonstration plots to learn how to grow superfoods. After attending the session, Mariano approached his village chief to explain to him the benefits of moringa.

**“At first, my parents and grandparents did not agree about my ideas of consuming moringa. After showing them photos of participating in demonstration plot training, the chief finally agreed to stop the food prohibition. Now we can eat moringa,”** Mariano explained.

**“I am now cooking porridge mixed with moringa and eggs three times a week. I also prepare mung beans frequently for my kids because they love them. I am happy because they are now healthy and active like other children,”** Lourdes added.

**“My favorite food is mung beans. It is sweet and yummy. I also like to eat moringa because it smells good when my mom cooks it with porridge and eggs,”** said 12-year-old Delio, son of Lourdes and Mariano.

Five villages including 32 sub-villages are now benefiting from the BFBH project activities.





## REDUCING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND CHILDREN



**12,541**  
PEOPLE REACHED



**9,033**  
CHILDREN REACHED



**3,392**  
FEMALES REACHED



**116 PEOPLE**  
WITH DISABILITIES

**Impact clubs** are groups of adolescents who meet weekly to have fun and learn valuable life skills through experiential learning, leading to personal growth in character, attitudes, and values.

## Achievements:



**885 parents** (583 females and 302 males) from 29 existing parents clubs were trained on positive parenting.



**73 Citizen Voice in Action (CVA)** committee members (43 females and 30 males) were engaged to advocate with their own local governments and service providers for improvements to basic services.



**88 community members** (35 females and 53 males) became parent-child protection/Gender-Based Violence (GBV) champions.



**410 IMPACT club members** (261 females and 149 males) for 10 new clubs recruited, including 28 new IMPACT+ leaders trained.



**307 staff members** (149 females and 158 males) from 5 service providers were trained on Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for responding to GBV.



**128 IMPACT leaders** (62 females and 66 males) attended a refresher training on Sexual Reproductive Health (SRH), gender-inclusive and healthy relationships, child protection and disability inclusion.



**296 IMPACT members** (168 females and 128 males) from 16 IMPACT Clubs received training on SRH, covering positive and negative impacts in relationships, physical changes in men and women, and reproduction.

## Impact:

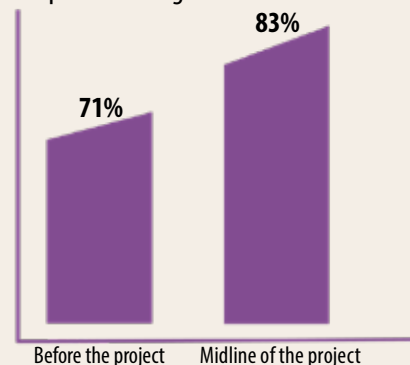
In 2023, the USAID Healthy Relationship for a Violence Free Future project evaluation showed an increase in conflict resolution skills:

	Baseline	Endline	Statistically Significant (SS) : $p \leq 0.05$
Adolescents	2.36	2.50	Yes

### Projects contributing to protection outcomes:

- Towards a Future Free from Violence - **DFAT**
- Healthy Relationships for a Violence Free Future - **USAID**
- Faith and Development (F&D) – **WVUS**
- The Promotion of Women through Economic Empowerment and Rights (POWER) – **European Union**

In 2023, the MFAT Roman ba Foinsa'e project midline study showed significant increases in boys and girls with highly positive and peaceful relations with their parents/caregivers:







## Thanks to the IMPACT Club, Ezaquel is now changing his life to help his community

**Ezaquel's journey from troublemaker to IMPACT Leader was marked by profound transformation. His past was marred by aggression and disregard for others, leading him astray and causing concern among his community, especially his parents.**

Having been involved in violent actions, Ezaquel seemed destined for a bleak future. However, an opportunity for change presented itself when the chief leader of his community invited him to attend a training session organised by World Vision.

Despite facing skepticism from his peers due to his troubled history, Ezaquel threw himself into the program. Through the support of the Roman ba Foin-sa'e project, funded by the New Zealand

Government, he and other young people received crucial leadership training and learned about important topics like child protection and gender-based violence.

"After gaining pieces of training, I learned a lot about how to be well-behaved," Ezaquel reflects. "Other participants started listening to my voice when I spoke in front. I slowly gained back the trust of the community, especially my parents. I have now become an IMPACT Leader."

In his new role, Ezaquel is determined to ensure that the adolescents of his community avoid the same mistakes he made. He shares his own experiences openly during sessions, aiming to guide others away from violence and towards positive change.

Ezaquel also helps to teach his friends who are unable to read and write: "I was happy when I saw one of my IMPACT Members going up to the stage, reading the Bible during Mass. At first, he could not read, but now he can read it well. There were tears in my eyes when I saw it, because I feel proud of myself how far I have gone now."

Ezaquel's story serves as a testament to the power of second chances and the impact of community support. Through his dedication and leadership, he inspires others to break free from destructive behaviors and embrace a brighter future.



## IMPROVING COMMUNITY RESILIENCE AND LIVELIHOODS



### Achievements:



**1,154 individuals** (309 women, 46 men, 538 young people, and 7 people with disabilities) were trained in climate-smart agriculture, including Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR), Sloping Agricultural Land Technology (SALT), livestock management, biosecurity control and feeding management for pigs and chickens.



**611 young people** participated in gender- and disability-inclusive Community-Owned Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (COVACA) training, with 17 communities completing COVACAs.



**536 people** were trained in small business development, 248 households in nutrition-sensitive livelihoods and 300 in environmentally friendly livelihoods. Additionally, 206 women established 20 livelihood groups.



**312 households** utilised FMNR to restore forests on their land; communities safeguarded 11 water sources, and 200 households adopted fuel-efficient cookstoves.



**307 Suco Disaster Management Committee members** were supported in training communities on simulation and evacuation drills, establishing 17 evacuation centers.



**100 households** learned about improved food storage, while 754 households were trained in enhanced poultry and livestock management practices.



**79 households** received livestock, including 40 piglets in breeding pairs and 396 native chickens.



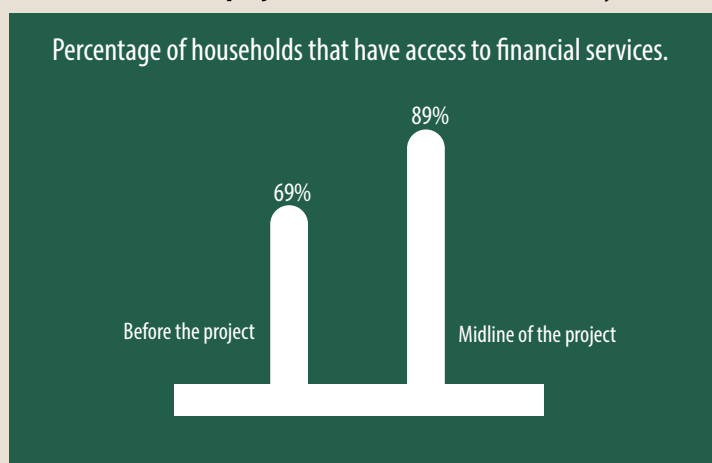
**226 savings and loan groups** (3,643 women and 2,530 men) supported.

### Projects included:

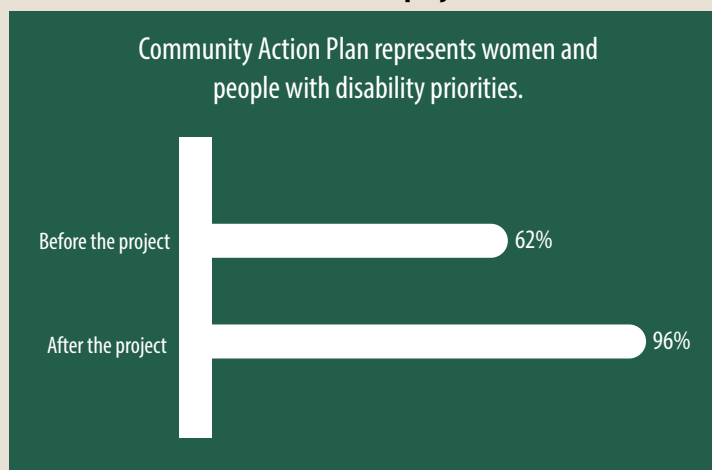
- Climate Resilience for All (CR4All) - DFAT
- ICORE - WV Taiwan
- DOVE - MFAT

### Impact:

In 2023, the CR4ALL project conducted its midline study and showed:



In 2023, the Taiwan funded ICORE project evaluation showed:





# Inspiring Resilience: Hernania's story

**Meet Hernania, a courageous 12-year-old from Baucau, whose determination and spirit shine bright even in the face of challenges.**

In her quiet village, water scarcity was a daily struggle for Hernania's family. She used to fetch water 4-5 times a day, especially during the dry season when water sources ran dry.

Hernania and her family embraced a simple life as farmers. Water was crucial for their crops, and Hernania, along with her little brother Clementino, aged 6, would embark on playful water-fetching adventures, carrying jerry cans and buckets while enjoying moments of fun amidst the challenges.

"Last year, during the dry season, my brother and I had to make countless trips to water our plants. While my family tended to the crops, I took on the role of keeping our plants from wilting. We couldn't bear to see them suffer," Hernania recalls.

Witnessing their struggles, World Vision's Climate Resilience for All project, supported by the Australian Government, stepped in to bring relief. The community was introduced to innovative water storage solutions, including tarpaulins sized 3x2 meters wide and 1 meter deep, ensuring a stable water supply throughout the seasons.

The community also received training on tarpaulin usage, agricultural techniques, and water conservation for both plants and animals. With this newfound support, Hernania's burden lightened.

Hernania, wise beyond her years, now conserves water diligently, remembering the loss they faced when their plants withered due to lack of water. Her family cultivates various crops, from papaya and chilies to tomatoes and cassava.

"I help my parents water the crops. After this, I go to play with my friends. It is so hot at daytime. Sometimes when I run, my foot slips in the hole because the ground is cracked and dry. But we get used to it, so we just keep running and kicking the ball," Clementino shared.

Rainwater harvesting equipment was distributed to 103 households across 10 villages and 35 sub-villages in Baucau, transforming lives and bringing hope to families like Hernania's.





## RESPONDING TO DISASTERS



**391 people** (180 females and 203 males) engaged in the Community-Owned Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (COVACA) meetings in the 4 villages, including 26 People with Disability (PwDs) (11 females and 15 males) were consulted over the Integrated Community Action Plan (ICAP) drafts.



**55 people** (17 females and 41 males) participated in developing plans for hazard preparedness.

## Achievements:



**176 farmers** (65 females and 111 males) created food calendars identifying the staple crops, such as legumes, tubers, and vegetables resistant to drought and wet seasons.



**51 households** including 9 with PwDs have started land preparation for terracing to grow the drought-resistant seeds.



**104 community members** (46 females, 1 woman with a disability, and 58 males), including 11 households with disabilities living in the sloping areas were trained on Sloping Agriculture Land Technology (SALT), which included the production of organic fertilizer and pesticides.



**26 people with disabilities** were consulted in the door-to-door interviews to improve the recommendations from the anticipatory action workshop.

## Impact:

Youth are now leading Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) activities and tools have been modified to suit the local context, and workshops are being facilitated in local languages. As a result, youth and community members are more pro-active in climate action.

The communities in 4 villages have adopted the food-mapping calendar and planned production for a whole year, starting with intercropping between staple crops, tubers, and vegetables that are available during the wet season. During the dry season, they will start to diversify vegetables.





## The Municipal Disaster Management Council (CMPC) gears up for anticipatory action

The Municipal Disaster Management Council (CMPC) in Bobonaro Municipality prepares for anticipatory actions amidst a history of various hazards. With support from the Australian Government, World Vision facilitated workshops aiming to develop Anticipatory Actions for Hydro-meteorological Hazards.

"We divided into groups for our anticipatory action plan to determine our responsibilities," said Jose, Commander of Civil Protection Authority (CPA) Bobonaro.

"The goal is to read hazard data and agree on trigger parameters for issuing alerts," said Emilia, a youth from Bobonaro, emphasizes the importance

of anticipatory actions.

"This is the first opportunity for me to hear about the importance of anticipatory actions that need to be carried out before a disaster occurs, so that it can reduce the risk of disaster to the community. This is useful to share with the community in increasing their knowledge and skills about the disaster," she continued.

Antonio the Service Director of Natural Disaster and Protection Civil Bobonaro stated, "So far, we have participated in many trainings, one of which is OpenStreetMap (OSM). Distilling this map helps CPMC to identify disaster survivors and the affected locations. CPMC has more knowledge to take anticipatory actions to reduce budget,

time and most importantly reduce disaster risks to the community."

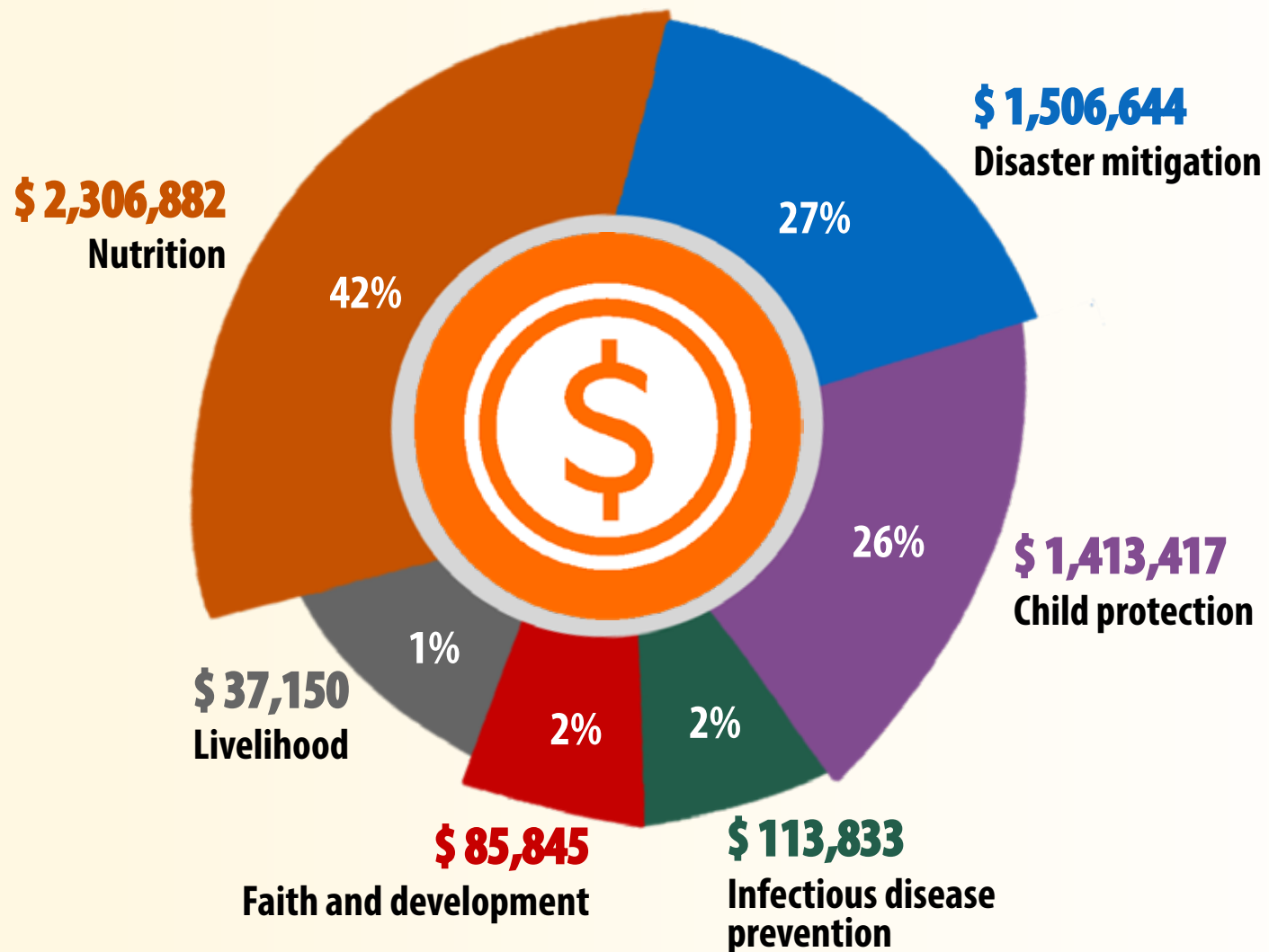
These discussions will guide WVTI's next steps in strengthening municipal and non-government agencies.

Zito Afranio, World Vision's Australian Humanitarian Partnership (AHP) Disaster READY project coordinator explained: "The dry season is approaching. We need to ensure that the community will be resilient during the season."

"First anticipatory action will be implemented in the dry season coming, including water storage, climate-smart agriculture, and resilient seeds."



# 2023 FINANCIAL SUMMARY





# Our Partners

## Government

Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries  
 Ministry of Tourism, Commerce and Industry  
 Ministry of Education  
 Ministry of Health  
 Ministry of Interior  
 Minister of State Administration  
 Ministry of Social Solidarity  
 Secretary of State for Equality and Inclusion  
 Secretary of State for Cooperatives  
 Secretary of State for Civil Protection  
 Polícia Nacional de Timor-Leste (PNTL)  
 National Directorate for Climate Change  
 National Directorate for Water Services  
 National Health Institution  
 Aileu Municipality Administrator  
 Baucau President of the Authority  
 Bobonaro President of the Authority  
 Covalima Municipality Administrator

## Civil Society and Private Sector

AI-Com  
 Aileu Women's Development and Action  
 Alola Foundation  
 Asistencia Legal ba Feto no Labarik  
 Blind Union TL  
 CARE International  
 Catholic Church  
 Catholic Relief Services  
 Church of Christ  
 Cruz Vermelha de Timor-Leste  
 Institute for Enterprise Development  
 Instituto Secular Maun Alin Kristo  
 Plan International  
 Protestant Church in Timor-Leste  
 FOKUPERS  
 HADEER  
 FEEEO  
 RHTO Raes Hadomi Timor Oan







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