

2021 2022 IMPACT REPORT

*Healthy Children, Empowered Youth for Strong
Communities*

World Vision
TIMOR-LESTE



INTRODUCTION

It is with great pride and deep gratitude that I introduce World Vision Timor-Leste's IMPACT Report for 2025. This report reflects the dedication of our staff who serve faithfully each day, walking alongside communities, listening with humility, and working tirelessly to ensure children and youth across Timor-Leste have the opportunity to thrive.

As you explore the stories and achievements shared here, I hope you will be encouraged by the remarkable transformations taking place. None of this progress is achieved by World Vision Timor-Leste (WVTL) alone. It is the product of strong and enduring partnerships with community members, faith leaders, local organisations, government ministries, and our committed donors.

In 2025, WVTL continued to strengthen our long-term community presence, reaching more than 38,000 people through 19 projects. This year marked significant progress in community health and nutrition, youth empowerment, and climate-resilient livelihoods.

Our Annual Impact Measurement process also provides a clear picture of where we must focus more deeply, particularly in improving access to essential health services and strengthening support for adolescents.

Throughout the past year, I had the privilege of visiting our Area Programmes and witnessing firsthand the resilience, creativity, and determination of Timorese children and their families. Each visit reminded me that our work is not simply about delivering activities, it is about nurturing hope, strengthening dignity, and walking together toward lasting change.

Thank you for your partnership and commitment. May this report offer a meaningful glimpse into the hope-filled transformation we are achieving together.

Dr. Jared Berends
National Director
World Vision Timor-Leste

WVTL SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM



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ABOUT US

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

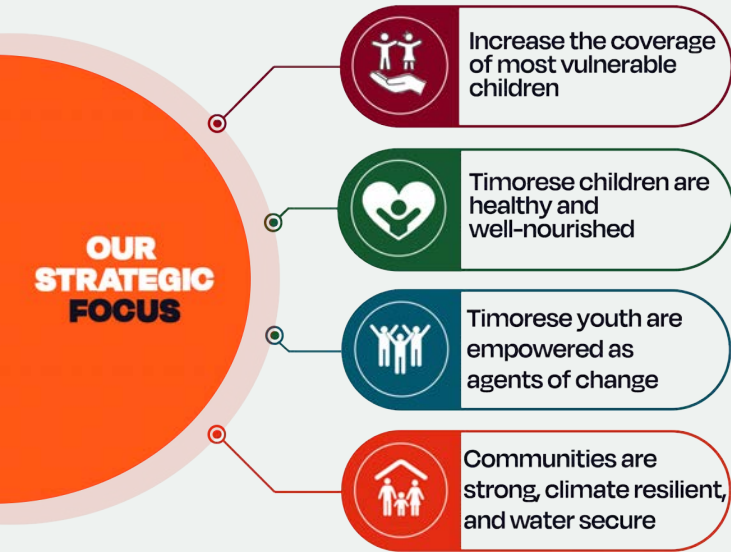
With a population of 1.3 million, Timor-Leste continues to face significant development challenges, including high rates of poverty and child stunting.

Our mission is *"Labarik saudavel no foin-sa'e empoderadu ba komidade forte,"* meaning healthy children and empowered youth for strong communities.

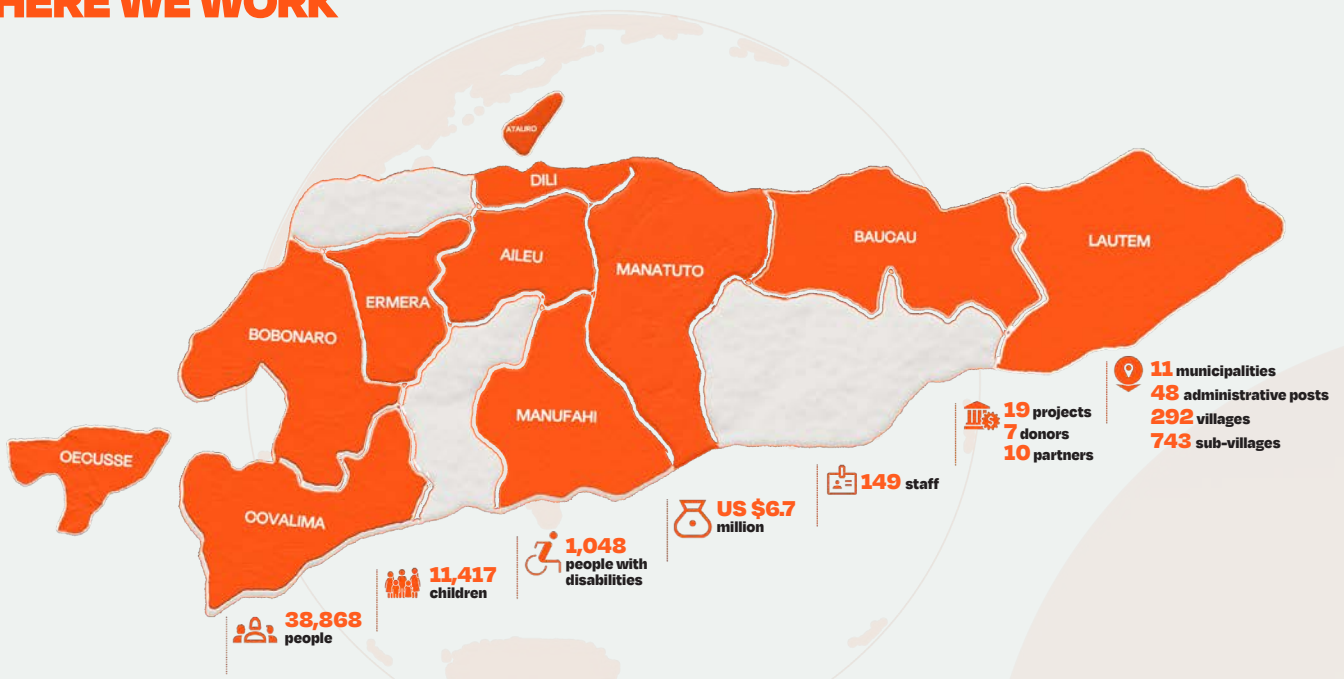
Present in Timor-Leste since 1995, World Vision Timor-Leste (WVTL) operates across Aileu, Atauro, Baucau, Bobonaro, Covalima, Dili, Ermera, Lautem, Manufahi, Manatuto, and Oecusse, and currently employs 149 staff.

Our long-term outcomes focus on increasing the coverage of most vulnerable children; ensuring Timorese children are healthy, well-nourished, and supported in early learning; empowering youth as agents of change; and strengthening communities to be climate-resilient and water-secure.

In 2025, WVTL managed a budget of US\$6.7 million with support from the Governments of Australia, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, the Republic of Korea; the European Union; and World Vision offices in Australia, Taiwan, New Zealand, the United States, Singapore, and Korea.



WHERE WE WORK





2025 IMPACT



38,868
people reached



14,607
women



11,796
men



6,029
girls



5,388
boys



1,048
people with
disabilities



7
Donors



19
Projects

INCREASE THE COVERAGE OF MOST VULNERABLE CHILDREN

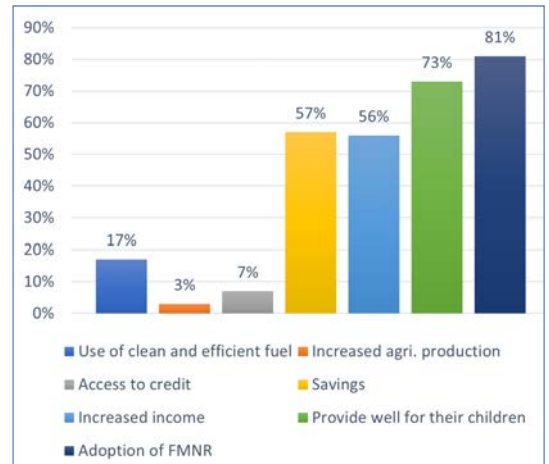
Annual Impact Measurement (AIM)

World Vision's first-ever Annual Impact Measurement (AIM) in 2025 covered 1,409 households, 1,122 caregivers, and 408 adolescents across our target areas in Timor-Leste, providing a snapshot of child well-being and household resilience. In future years, World Vision will re-measure these indicators annually to track our coverage and impact on the most vulnerable children in Timor-Leste.

Households

Household resilience remains a key challenge in Timor-Leste. Structural vulnerabilities persist, with only 17% of households using clean and efficient cooking fuels, 3% sustaining or increasing agricultural production, and just 7% reporting access to sufficient credit.

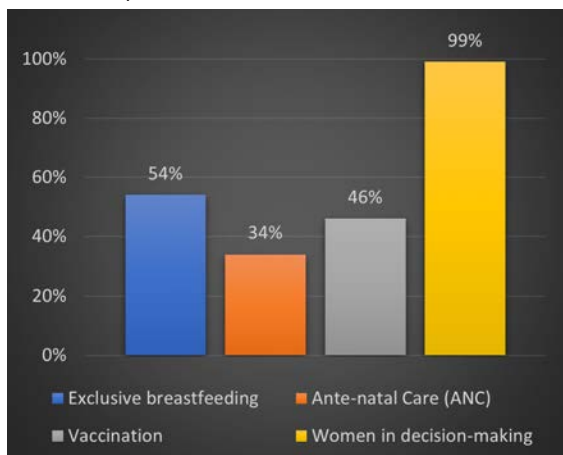
At the same time, there are encouraging signs of economic strengthening linked to World Vision Timor-Leste (WVTL) interventions. More than half of households (57%) report having a means to save money through formal or semi-formal mechanisms, and 56% indicate increased income as a result of program participation. Well-being at the household level is also improving, with 73% of households reporting they are able to better provide for their children.



Environmental stewardship is a notable strength: 81% of households practice Farmers Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR), reflecting a strong uptake of sustainable land management approaches promoted through our programming.

Caregivers

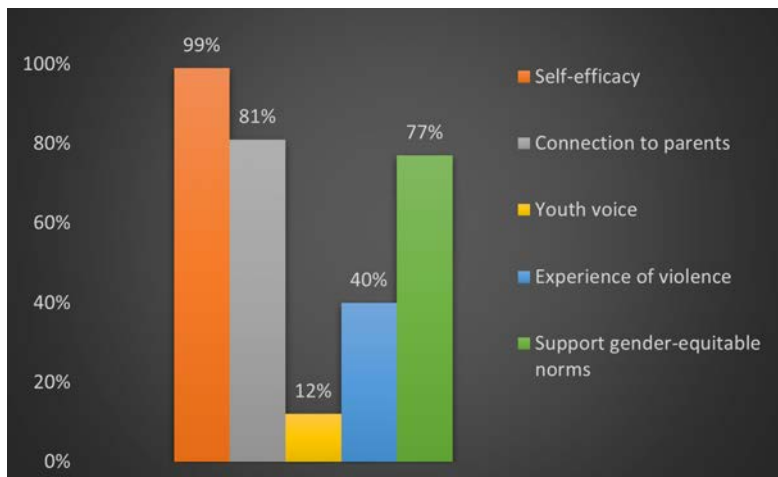
Key health and nutrition gaps remain evident. Exclusive breastfeeding stands at 54%, while only 34% of mothers possess antenatal care (ANC) documentation, and vaccination coverage for children aged 12–59 months is 46%. These results point to persistent access, utilisation, and continuity-of-care challenges within maternal and child health services.



In contrast, social and household norms related to care and inclusion are strong. A high proportion of caregivers demonstrate positive behaviours, with 93% practicing spiritual nurturing, 94% actively influencing positive social behaviours, and 99% of households reporting women's active participation in household decision-making. These results indicate a strong foundation for behaviour change, gender equity, and family-level transformation.

Adolescent

Adolescent internal resilience is a major strength. Almost all adolescents (99%) report high self-efficacy, and 81% feel strongly connected to a parent or caregiver, suggesting positive outcomes from life skills, psychosocial, and relational approaches.



At the same time, youth participation is constrained, with only 12% reporting that their views are sought or considered in decision-making processes.

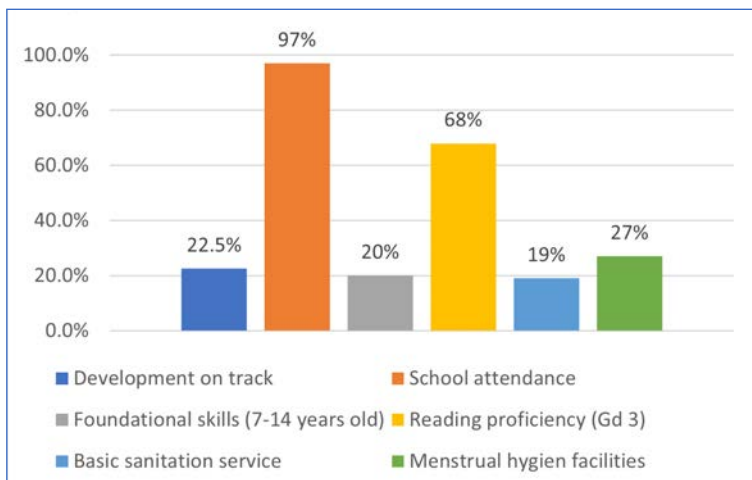
Exposure to violence remains a serious concern, with 40% of adolescents reporting experiences of physical or psychological violence. Despite these challenges, attitudes toward equality remain promising, as 77% of adolescents support gender-equitable norms, providing an important entry point for future adolescent and youth programming.

Children

Key child development and learning indicators reveal mixed progress across early childhood and basic education. Only 22.5% of pre-school children are developmentally on track, while most remain in emerging stages, highlighting the need to strengthen early childhood development, school readiness, and supportive learning environments.

Learning outcomes remain a concern despite high access to education and basic services. While 97% of children attend school and most schools have water and handwashing facilities, only 20% of children aged 7–14 achieve foundational learning skills, reflecting a critical gap between enrolment, learning, and enabling conditions.

At the early primary level, 68% of Grade 3 children meet minimum reading proficiency, suggesting stronger literacy where targeted support exists. However, only 19% of schools meet basic sanitation standards, and just 27% have adequate menstrual hygiene facilities, limiting girl-friendly learning spaces.



CHILDREN ARE HEALTHY AND WELL- NOURISHED



Achievements:



Conducted **5,837** household touchpoints, including visits, follow-ups, and household mapping, with **2,445** households adopting superfood production.



Identified **806** children for nutritional support, with **239** enrolled in community feeding program and **246** screened through mobile clinics.



661 children and **467** adults vaccinated. Delivered **834** caregiver sessions on routine immunisations, hygiene, and gender-equitable caregiving.



Supported **1,074** pregnant women to attend 4 or more Ante Natal Care (ANC) visits, contributing to a **22%** increase in facility births.



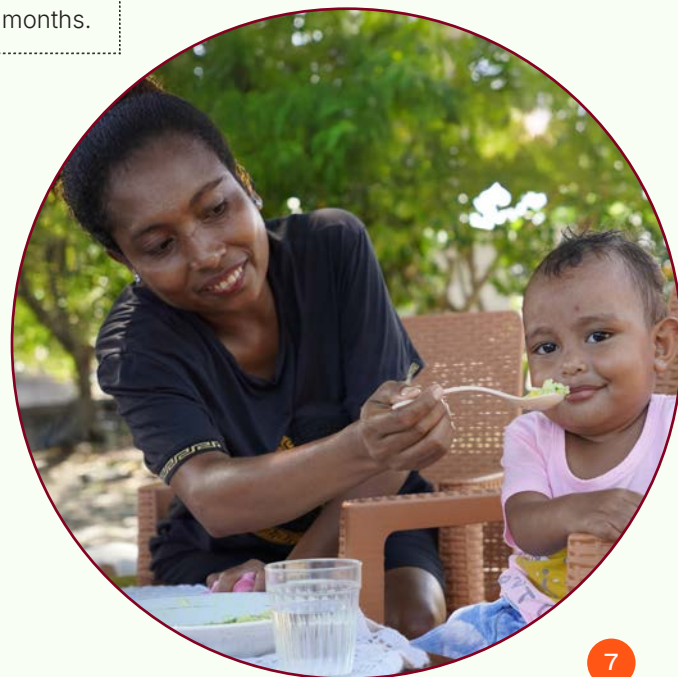
Achieved significant nutrition gains in the community feeding program: **23.7%** reduction in children underweight in 90 days; 39 children returned to normal/mild status; and 42 children gained **≥900g** in 3 months.



Strengthened community systems by training **158** Community Health Volunteers, and establishing 20 new Parent Clubs with **354** members.

Projects contributing to health and nutrition outcomes:

- Better Food, Better Health (BFBH)
- Better Nutrition (BENU)
- Strengthening Uptake of Nutrition & Immunisation in TL (SUNITL)
- Ahi-Matan Esperansa ba Família Saudavel (AMEFASA)
- Better Health and Nutrition for Mother and Child (BHN4MC)
- Nutritional Empowerment and Support in TL (NEST)



Transforming Nutrition, Transforming Lives

Meet Mana Marelia, a mother of three who lives in Baucau. Like many mothers, Mana Marelia once followed traditional practices, unaware of the risks of introducing solid foods too early or the critical role of breastfeeding.

"I used to believe we should feed babies solid food at three months because they seemed hungry or in discomfort. I did not realise this could harm their growth and development," she shared.

Everything changed when Mana Marelia joined the Parents' Club under the Better Food, Better Health (BFBH) project, implemented by World Vision Timor-Leste, and funded by the Australian Government through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP).

Through the club's sessions, facilitated by health volunteers, Mana Marelia learned the importance of exclusive breastfeeding and proper nutrition.

"I breastfed my son, Jolánio, from birth and introduced solid foods only at six months, as recommended," she explained.

She also embraced the concept of the three food groups to ensure her children receive balanced, age-appropriate nutrition.

"Now, my son's weight increases every month, and he is much healthier and more active than his siblings were at his age."

Grateful for the program, Mana Marelia concluded, *"What I have learned has changed my family's life. Thank you, BFBH, for helping us build a healthier future for our children."*



Mana Agata's Mission to Nourish Her Family and Community



This is Mana Agata, a remarkable woman from Oecusse, who is transforming her community through sustainable farming. Together with her fellow villagers, she cultivates a variety of nutritious vegetables, including mustard greens, eggplants, cauliflower, and orange sweet potatoes.

Mana Agata is dedicated to providing her children with healthy, nutritious food and improving her family's economic wellbeing.

She shares, "I am thankful to FEEO (Fundasaun Esperansa Enclave Oecusse), and World Vision for establishing this farmers group. I am committed to working hard to contribute to our wellbeing. I am also excited to have been invited to a cooking competition in Dili!"






The Better Food, Better Health (BFBH) project is implemented in Oecussi in partnership with FEEO (Fundasaun Esperansa Enclave Oecusse) and aims to enhance child and mother nutrition.

By promoting the consumption of six superfoods such as red kidney beans, eggs, mung beans, soybeans, moringa, and orange sweet potatoes, this initiative is making a significant impact in Timor-Leste.

This project is made possible with the generous support of the Australian government. Together, we are creating a healthier, more sustainable future.



YOUTH ARE EMPOWERED AS AGENTS OF CHANGE

 5,339 people	 1,602 children	 46 people with disabilities
	 1,859 females	 1,832 males

Achievements:



Supported **33** IMPACT+ Clubs with **282** youth members; with three IMPACT+ Clubs led by youth with disabilities. Conducted camp days on gender equality for **274** youth, adolescents, and family members.



Delivered workers and family support training to **298** Pacific Labour Mobility Support Program (PLMSP) candidates in Atauro, Oecusse, Baucau, Lautem, and Aileu.



18 IMPACT+ leaders (7 female, 11 male) secured formal employment or leadership roles.



1,001 adolescents accessed adolescent friendly health services (SRH, nutrition, violence-related care, and general health), demonstrating strong demand and confidence in the services.



Supported youth advocacy through **35** youth Citizen's Voice and Action (CVA) members participating in community-to-national campaigns. Three youth female leaders engaged in regional advocacy, applying digital advocacy skills.



Conducted a youth conference and launched the **ENOUGH Campaign**, mobilising **153** youth (73 female, 66 male and 4 People With Disabilities) to advocate for improved nutrition.



* IMPACT+ Clubs are groups of adolescents who meet weekly to learn valuable life skills through experiential learning, leading to personal growth in character, attitudes, and values, while having fun.

Projects contributing to this outcome:

- Towards a Future Free From Violence (TFFV)
- Roman ba Foin-sa'e
- Pacific Labour Mobility Support Program (PLMSP)

EMPOWERING CHANGE: Helena's Journey with IMPACT+

At just 17, Helena from Bobonaro has transformed from a shy, mischievous student into a confident leader and role model—thanks to IMPACT+, supported by the New Zealand Government through the Roman ba Foin-sa'e project.

Before joining the program in 2020, she struggled with self-confidence and often criticised others based on their appearance and performance at school.

But through training and hands-on leadership experiences, Helena discovered her potential.

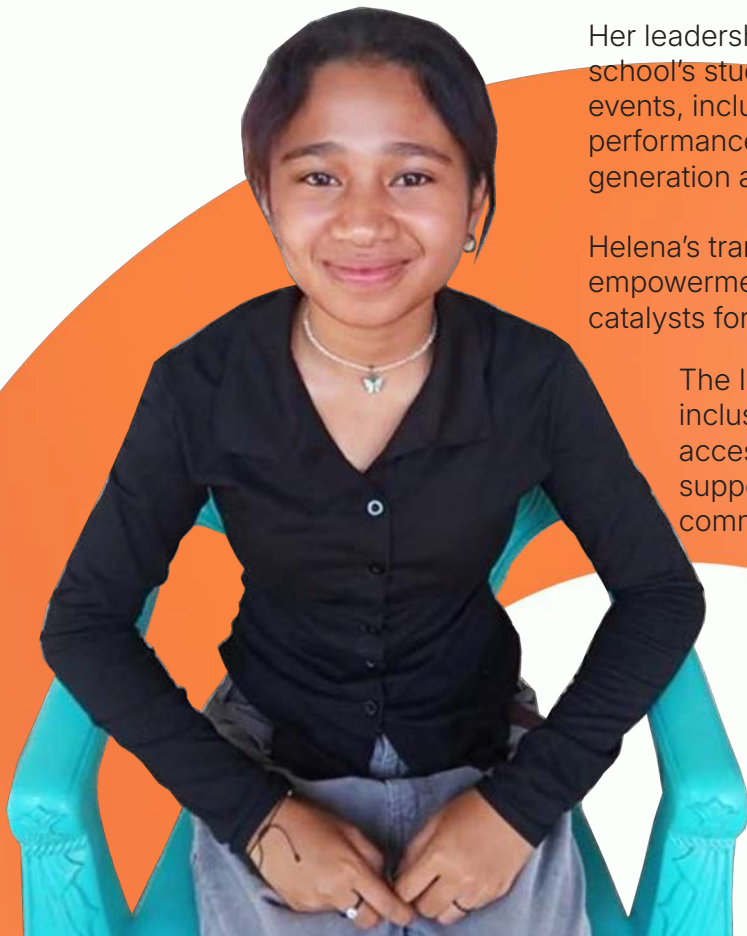
"IMPACT+ taught me to speak confidently, respect my peers, and understand the impact of violence," she shared.



Her leadership skills flourished, earning her a place in her school's student body, where she now organises major events, including eco-friendly fashion shows and theatrical performances. Looking ahead, she dreams of mentoring the next generation and becoming a leader in her country.

Helena's transformation is a testament to the power of youth empowerment. With the right support, young people can become catalysts for change.

The IMPACT+ Clubs aim to promote gender equality and inclusion, challenge harmful social norms, strengthen access to health and child protection services, and support adolescents' positive transition to adulthood and community leadership.



○ We Say **ENOUGH** to Malnutrition!

On 12 June 2025, World Vision Timor-Leste (WVTL) launched the **ENOUGH** Campaign, reaffirming its partnership with the Government of Timor-Leste, communities, and civil society to address child hunger and malnutrition, particularly stunting.

The launch engaged over 150 young people as advocates for improved nutrition. Through youth-led messaging and creative outreach, participants promoted positive behaviour change in households and communities and encouraged more equitable access to nutritious food.

With almost half of Timor-Leste's children affected by stunting, the campaign prioritises practical, community-level actions to improve diets and care practices.

Key focus areas include:

- Nutrition education and promotion of culturally appropriate dietary practices;
- School gardens and linkages between farmer groups, local markets, and schools to increase availability and diversity of foods;
- Youth leadership development to amplify evidence-informed nutrition messages;
- Community-led advocacy, using evidence-based storytelling and strengthened monitoring to track progress and inform local decision-making.

As part of World Vision's global ENOUGH movement, WVTL is mobilising partners and communities to reduce stunting and ensure that every child in Timor-Leste grows up healthy, supported, and able to reach their full potential.



Rising Leader, Growing Impact: **Mana Ijilda's Story**



At 19, Mana Ijilda from Baucau is proving how far confidence and opportunity can go. She joined an IMPACT+ Club in 2022, began facilitating activities with her peers, and stepped into a youth leadership role, just within a year.

Backed by World Vision Timor-Leste (WVTL), she has:

- Led community projects that bring young people together to solve local challenges;
- Promoted inclusion, ensuring activities are accessible for peers with disabilities;
- Mobilised youth participation, encouraging girls and boys to speak up in community forums.

Her leadership was recognised in 2023 with her selection to the Women's Youth Council, where she helps carry youth and women's priorities into local decision-making. In 2024, she enrolled in hospitality training at Canossa Training Centre, to build practical skills that can increase her future employability and confidence.

How does the project support change?

The Towards a Future Free from Violence (TFFV) Project—funded by the Australian Government through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP), prevents violence against women and children by:

- Building youth leadership and life skills;
- Strengthening positive, peaceful relationships at home and in schools;
- Including people with disabilities in community activities;
- Equipping parents, teachers, and local leaders to respond to and refer protection concerns.

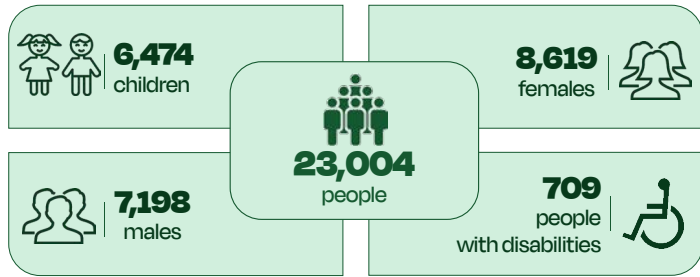
Why does this matter?

- Young leaders like Mana Ijilda shift community norms from silence to participation and from exclusion to inclusion.
- Skills training and safe spaces translate into action, such as, youth-run initiatives, better peer support, and stronger local advocacy.

What's next? Creating more pathways, like mentorship, skills training, and platforms for youth voice, so that changemakers like Mana Ijilda can scale their impact and help shape safer, more inclusive communities.



COMMUNITIES ARE STRONG, CLIMATE RESILIENT AND WATER SECURE



Trained **1,184** caregivers in Caring for My Family, and **249** leaders in Gender Inclusive Financial Training (GIFT); and supported **29** business plans, **226** women entrepreneurs, and **73** women to gain technical skills.



67 savings and loan groups established in 2025, totaling **304** groups in 2025 with **8,300+** members saving **US\$3.4** million.



Strengthened Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) systems with **172** Suco Disaster Management Committee members trained; expansion to 4 new villages; **117** students engaged; **680** vetiver plantings, and accessibility upgrades benefiting **4,336** people indirectly.

Achievements:



786 saving and loan members established producer groups (including **445** women), and established linkages with **5** local buyers, i.e supermarkets.



26 women successfully accessed formal financial services through strengthened financial literacy and institutional linkages, overcoming significant rural access barriers.



Through Climate-smart Agriculture model, farmers harvested **250** kg onions in one season, which were sold to local buyers at a **100%** price increase.



Mobilised **9** regreening groups (**67%** women led); set up **28** demo plots; planted diverse fruit/timber/resilient species + **1,000** vetiver.



418 people participated in Community-Owned Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (COVACA); **1,058** people participated in spring protection activities, and **250+** households benefitted from sustainable income.



54 Youth trained as Citizen's Voice and Action (CVA) members. One group successfully raised a long-term water-access issue in Covalima, resulting in the construction of a 1 km pipeline benefiting **43** households.

How \$1 Is Building Stronger Communities in Oecusse

In a remote village of Oecusse, farming families once lived day-to-day with little room to save or invest. In 2024, this began to change with a simple idea: saving together.

Through the Promotion of Women through Economic Empowerment and Rights (POWER) Project—funded by the European Union and implemented in partnership with FEEO (Fundasaun Esperansa Enclave Oecusse) and FOKUPERS, community members formed the savings group *Nunana Oe-Taku*.

The 22 members saved just US \$1–5 twice a month, and in only six months they accumulated US \$1,883. Instead of sharing profits early, they chose to reinvest until 2026 to build long-term stability.

Their savings now support small businesses, education, vegetable farming, poultry, and seed production, creating new income opportunities and strengthening cooperation in the village.

For Mana Olinda, the group has been life-changing. Once limited to household duties, she now earns income through seed production and participates confidently in financial decisions.

“Before, I stayed at home and waited. Now, I run a small business and work alongside men. Life is different,” she says.

Despite challenges like water shortages, *Nunana Oe-Taku* continues to grow, not just in savings, but also in confidence, gender equality, and hope. This is more than a savings group; it’s community resilience in action, proving even US \$1 can spark lasting change.

Projects contributing to this outcome:

- Promotion of Women through Economic Empowerment & Rights (POWER)
- Building Resilience and Assets for Food Security (BRASS)
- Enhanced Agroforestry for Resilient Timorese Households (EARTH)
- Area Matak Integradu (AMI)
- Disaster Ready (DR)
- Anticipatory Action (AA)
- Climate Resilient for All (CR4ALL)
- Empowered Worldview (EWV)



Farming **Smarter, Growing Stronger:** **Meet Mana Marcelina and Maun Domingos**



"We're proud to sell our vegetables and oranges at better prices. The money helps us buy farm tools, pay our children's school fees, and even furnish our home," said Mana Marcelina.

But what makes their journey even more inspiring? They're sharing what they've learned.

"We're now helping five new members improve their farms too. Seeing our success spread through the community makes us really proud."

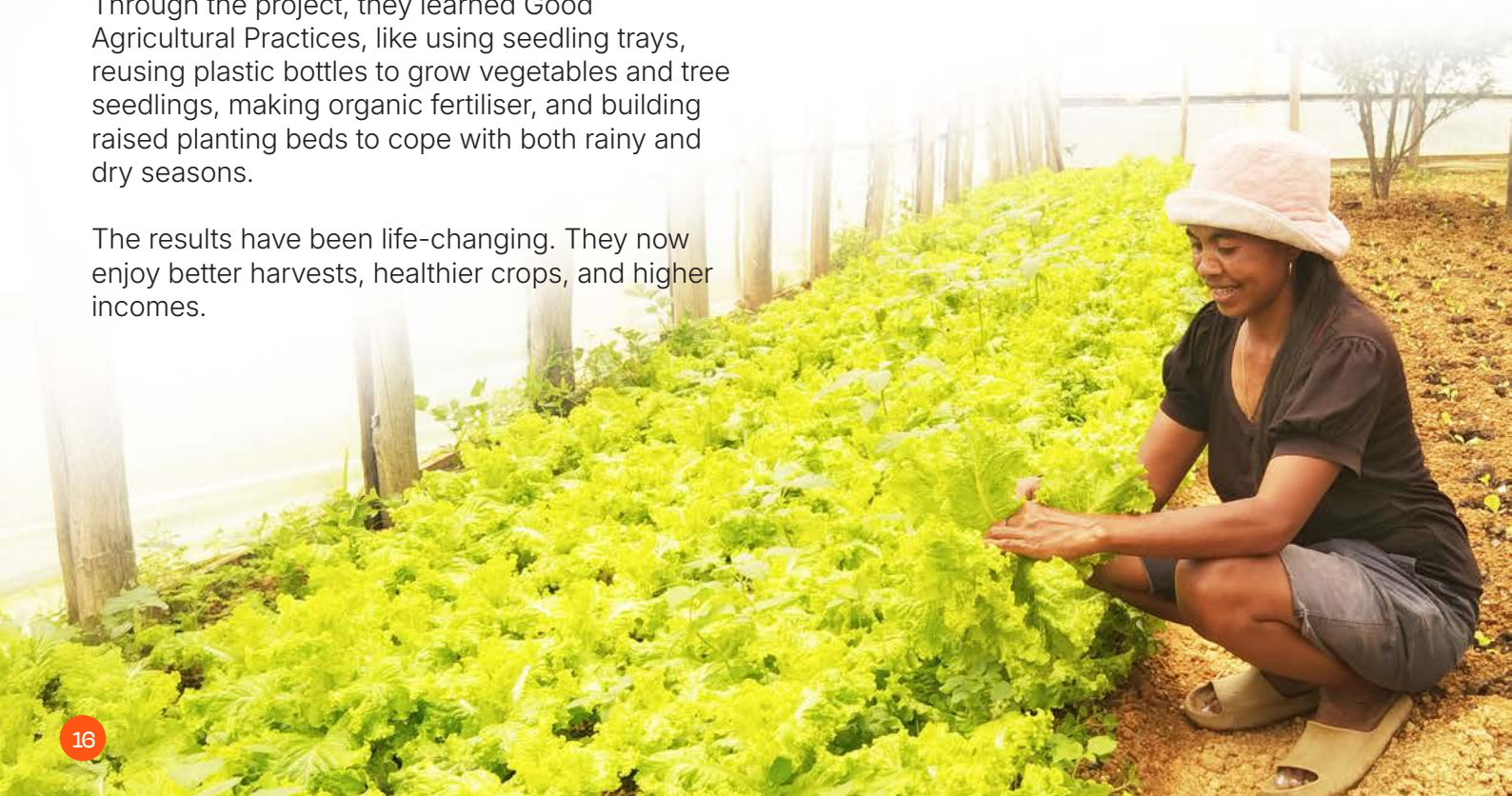
This is what resilience looks like, when knowledge, teamwork, and support grow into lasting change.

For Mana Marcelina and Maun Domingos, farming used to be a struggle. Their crops were planted unevenly, harvests were delayed, and pests often damaged their produce. But that changed when they joined a farmer group supported by the Climate Resilience for All (CR4ALL) project in Aileu.

Funded by the Australian Government through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP), CR4ALL supports Timorese communities like Mana Marcelina and Maun Domingos' to build climate resilience and secure their livelihoods.

Through the project, they learned Good Agricultural Practices, like using seedling trays, reusing plastic bottles to grow vegetables and tree seedlings, making organic fertiliser, and building raised planting beds to cope with both rainy and dry seasons.

The results have been life-changing. They now enjoy better harvests, healthier crops, and higher incomes.



Climate Resilience Starts With Community



Farmers in Bobonaro face severe challenges during drought and El Niño conditions, when limited water access makes crop production difficult.

For years, Tiu Jaime struggled to irrigate his backyard farm, carrying water from the river by hand and relying on external support to keep his crops alive.

Through the Australian Government-funded Disaster Ready Project (DRP), World Vision Timor-Leste (WVTL) introduced Savings and Loans Groups to help rural farmers build financial resilience and adapt to climate impacts. With access to small loans, Tiu Jaime purchased a water pump, allowing him to irrigate more efficiently and increase his income.



In 2025, he earned over US \$500 from selling vegetables, enabling him to repay his loan, buy tools, and start saving regularly.

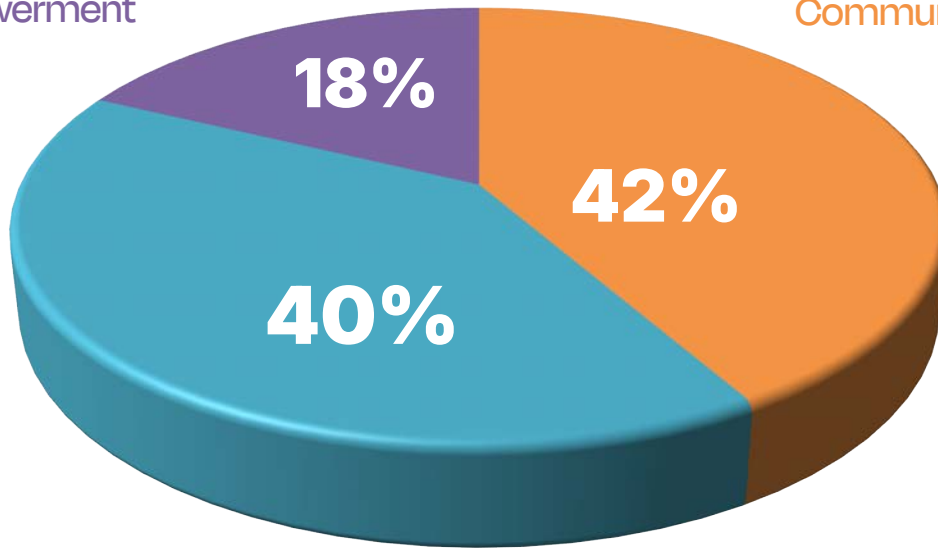
The Ukalori Savings Group, established under the project, now comprises 22 members who have collectively saved US \$5,515 and issued US \$969 in loans. These funds support agricultural activities, food security needs during drought, and small business investments. Members are also establishing a seed reserve to strengthen long-term sustainability.

By improving access to credit, promoting savings habits, and supporting climate-smart investments, the DRP is helping families in Bobonaro reduce vulnerability and strengthen their ability to withstand prolonged drought and other climate stresses.



\$1,193,799
Youth Empowerment

\$2,795,957
Community Resilience



\$2,714,448
Health & Nutrition

FINANCIAL EXPENDITURES 2025

OUR DONORS



OUR PARTNERS & STAKEHOLDERS

GOVERNMENT

Ministry of Agriculture, Livelihood, Fisheries, and Forestry
Ministry of Health
Ministry of State Administration
Ministry of Social Solidarity and Inclusion
Secretary of State for Cooperatives
Secretary of State for Forestry
Secretary of State for Equality
Secretary of State for Civil Protection
National Police of Timor-Leste
National Directorate for Climate Change
National Directorate for Water Services
National Health Institution
Aileu Municipal Authority
Baucau Municipal Authority
Bobonaro Municipal Authority
Covalima Municipal Authority
Ermera Municipal Authority
Atauro Administrative Authority
Special Administrative Region of Oe-Cusse Ambeno

CIVIL SOCIETY AND PRIVATE SECTOR

Grupo Sistema Informasaun Geografia (G-SIG)
Forum Komunikasaun ba Feto Timor Lorosa'e (FOKUPERS)
Hametin Asaun no Dezenvolvimentu Edukasaun no Ekonomia Rural (HADEER)
FEEO (Fundasaun Esperansa Enclave Oe-Cusse)
Fundação Carbon Offset Timor (FCOTI)
Ra'es Hadomi Timor Oan (RHOT)
Blind Union Timor-Leste
CARE Timor-Leste
OXFAM
Plan International
Catholic Relief Services (CRS)
Marie Stopes Timor-Leste (MSTL)
Institute for Enterprise Development
Aileu Women's Development and Action
Asistencia Legal ba Feto no Labarik
Catholic Church
Protestant Church in Timor-Leste

THANK YOU! OBRIGADU BARAK!



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