

Supporting Timorese CSOs & Women as Empowered Market Agents

KEY INFORMATION

SECTOR	Women's Empowerment, Support to Civil Society Support		
LEAD PARTNER	ADRA Austria		
DURATION	March 2021 – February 2025		
PROJECT LOCATION	Dili, Ainaro, Baucau, Bobonaro municipalities of Timor-Leste		
TOTAL BUDGET EU	EUR 800,000.00		
TOTAL BUDGET	EUR 888,888.70		
DATE	18 October 2023		

Background

Many CSOs supporting women's empowerment are not able to fulfil a key role in creating a societal change in Timor-Leste, as these CSOs often operate in limited networks, with low visibility and limited influence on advocacy with other CSOs, government actors, and the general public.

Timorese women lack power and influence in decision-making and participating in social and economic life and have few income earning opportunities. Women often face challenges to participating in economic activities, due to low education levels (basic literacy, numeracy, other skills).

There is little understanding among subsistence farmers of how market systems work, which can act as a barrier preventing farmers from selling commercially or can create an exploitable, uneven power relationship with traders.

Women often lack the capital, necessary equipment and materials to start-up businesses that would allow them to earn income. The burden of domestic responsibilities limits the time available for women to participate in civic and economic activities.

The patriarchal system prevalent in much of Timorese society results in women being excluded or disadvantaged from opportunities they might like to engage in because of husband's or other male relatives' greater power in decision-making.

Such exclusion is compounded by the fear of domestic violence and the inadequate enforcement of formal laws against domestic violence. Many women are not fully aware of the laws that protect their rights.



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Project Details

The project increases women's skills to be actively involved in social and economic activities at community level.

The project will strengthen the management capacity of CSO network Rede Feto ('women's network') and its members, and support them to create a CSO Academy that will serve as a learning platform for good governance and as a knowledge hub for other Timorese CSOs.

This learning platform will provide access to information that can contribute to increase skills in leadership, project cycle management, quality control, accountability, advocacy, and business development, for CSOs to serve their community better and ensure their financial sustainability.

The action will conduct gender analysis and train adolescents, women, and men on gender issues and women's roles within the family. Followed by gender training using reflective and conversational methods and promoting Positive Messaging with local authorities, church leaders, cultural leaders. The Action will also support advocacy at the national level to ensure women's rights, girls' participation in formal education, and end domestic violence.

Financial support will be provided to the trained CSOs for the establishment and training of 'Village Saving and Loan Associations' and 'Farmer & Market Field Schools'. They will give farmers training on agricultural best practices in collaboration with government staff and trainers.

The farmers will be trained in climate-smart agriculture and organic production methods to add value to their activities and increase production quantity and quality, as well as access to formal markets. Basic literacy and numeracy, and business training will be provided to support the creation of Village Saving and Loan Associations.

The formalization of high-capacity groups into registered CSOs will lead to participation in collective marketing, access to formal markets and engagement in advocacy with local government. These CSOs will be able to become collection centres, offering quality control, making a small profit along the value chain and become financially independent.

CONTACT DETAILS

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Expected results

- Improved capacity of Rede Feto Timor-Leste to engage in professional networking, marketable advocacy and training service delivery, with social enterprise supplying sustainable core funding. Improved capacity to function as effective CSOs, better able to operate as service providers and better able to advocate for gender equality and children's rights.
- Improved knowledge by women of market systems, with collective marketing, better linkages to traders, more value addition; all leading to increased household incomes and participation in the formal economy.
- Increased productivity and more actors in markets, strengthened value chains, import substitution of food products, cooperative market increasing competition and supply of goods, increased incomes and access to savings and credit leading to increased spending potential
- Increased skills for Agricultural Extension Workers on how to support to farmers, increased opportunities for coordination with CSOs, increased number of market actors, expanded national tax base

PROJECTS PARTNERS' LOGOS.

