

LA'O HO HA'U

OXFAM IN TIMOR-LESTE

JULY - DECEMBER 2023

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

OITL INFLUENCING STRATEGY

OITL AT NATIONAL AND
INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

SUCCESS STORIES

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MESSAGE FROM COUNTRY DIRECTOR



“Our newsletter provides highlights of Oxfam in Timor-Leste’s work, and more importantly it provides a space where ongoing work, voices and views of Oxfam partners, stakeholders and communities can be represented. We’re pleased to launch our it in both Tetun and English to ensure wider access including by our donors and government stakeholders, our local partners, allies, Oxfam colleagues in other country offices, and the wider public”, said Fausto Belo Ximenes, Oxfam International Country Director for Timor-Leste.



Hello, friends!

In this edition the theme is called LA'O HO HA'U, we want to share with you news about Oxfam in Timor-Leste's influencing strategy by three (3) pillars at national and international levels.

OXFAM IN TIMOR-LESTE'S WORK

Oxfam in Timor-Leste is part of a global movement that fights inequality, poverty and injustice.

Oxfam in Timor-Leste has three integrated pillars: Economic Justice, Climate Justice, and Gender Equality.

Oxfam in Timor-Leste has started a new vision for the 2021-2025 period and works to promote inclusive and sustainable economy, adapt and strengthen community resilience to disasters and the negative impacts of climate change; as well as equal women and men relations. Through these services, Oxfam will strengthen a range of voices including civil society, as well as vulnerable groups such as women and persons with disabilities in policy and practical development.

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

Oxfam in Timor-Leste has implemented various projects over the past years for especially in agriculture.' Supporting farmers to increase their income is essential for poverty reduction in Timor-Leste and human rights and inclusion such as Land, Women and Land Rights, Climate Finance, Open the Book, Hakbi'it, Rai Matak and Disaster Ready Program.



BUILD A SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE ENVIRONMENT

In response to the needs and demands of the Timorese people, OiTL has over the years implemented some projects called Rai Matak, Hakbi'it, Feto and Rai, Open the Book, Climate Finance, and Disasters Ready to influence the government as well as communities to make changes in their lives through the influencing strategies that OiTL has created.



Sergio Barreto
Rai Matak Program
Manager

The Rai Matak project will be more successful as farmers are paid annually for the crops they plant as part of the carbon payment scheme.

Working on women's rights to land is a very complex and sensitive issue, as it is linked to social policies, powers and norms, but with the investment of women's rights on land, it has provided a space for learning together and there has been improvement day by day to the quality of work on women's rights to land and rights for all people.



Ines Martins
Land Rights and
Women's Rights to
Land Program
Manager



Ana Paula Sequeira
HAKBI'IT Program
Manager

There has been changes and in good collaboration with the partners in the implementation of the programs.

Climate justice is not only reflected by the climate financing commitment of polluter countries but must take concrete action within their country by reducing their emissions.



Lucio Savio
Climate Finance
Program Manager



**Adilson da Costa
Junior**
Influencing and Strategy
Program Manager

Timor-Leste should diversify its economy by investing in agriculture and other productive sectors a long-term alternative solution!

Fair and sustainable development can only occur when the State actors consider disability inclusion issues with inclusive legislation, inclusive programmes and budget allocation based on rights that reflect and meet the specific needs of persons with disabilities of different types.



Lucas Obe
Open the Book Program
Manager

OITL ACTIONS FOR CHANGE

Natural disasters such as floods, erosion and landslides have sometimes occurred during the rainy season in Timor-Leste. Timor-Leste has experienced floods that have occurred in the past few years where there has been a great deal of damage such as houses, roads, fields, carpentry, buildings, stores, schools, and livelihoods. Until now there has been a low-velocity of floods in the cities of Dili that have damaged houses and household items that cannot be saved by the community during the rainy season.

Oxfam in Timor-Leste works and collaborates with civil society partnerships, community leaders and communities to take early actions before disasters through direct advocacy with civil society and the community through discussions and ways to find solutions together to anticipate floods in the future during the rainy season and to provide care to women and children, the elderly and persons with disabilities.



VALIDATION OF RESEARCH RESULTS FOR UNPAID CARE WORKERS

Oxfam in Timor-Leste has organised a workshop for the validation of research findings on the assessment of policy performance tables for unpaid care workers with stakeholders who have participated and have representatives from SEPFOPE, RHTO, WaterAid, SEI, INSS, AJTL, EDTL E.P, and Alola Foundation. Oxfam in Timor-Leste aims to increase public knowledge about gender inequality in the unpaid care worker and provide a platform to spread the voices of women's experiences, thereby increasing women's participation, empowerment, leadership, and representation in public and private places.





Collaboration between Oxfam in Timor-Leste and Civil society Organizations.

OXFAM IN TIMOR-LESTE'S INFLUENCE

Oxfam in Timor-Leste collaborates and works with civil society organizations and the government as a working partnership to seek together the situation and problems within the country which are part of all people's responsibility such as working on developing the country, human rights, natural disasters, poverty, inequality and others that communities are facing.

OiTL also participates in social activities organized by civil society organizations such as open dialogue, meetings, workshops, training and even campaigns to share experiences and thoughts as well as strengthen relations between organisations.



OITL AT INTERNATIONAL EVENT



In November 2023 OiTL's delegation participated at the Conference of the Parties in Dubai to discuss and talk about climate change which was attended by countries that have signed the United Nations Climate Agreement. Although Timor-Leste did not participate in the signing of the agreement that year, however Timor-Leste was invited to participate in this conference.

At the conference leaders including the OiTL delegation will discuss on how to mitigate climate change and prepared for the future.

Oxfam in Timor-Leste was invited to participate in the conference because OiTL is a civil society organisation working in climate change action in Timor-Leste for the Climate Justice project together with civil society organisations working with the government for climate change within the country.

As we all know, climate change occurs due to the impact of human behaviour through the use of fossil fuels such as petrol and gas which has a significant impact on global emissions including industrial sites and deforestation have contributed to the increase of emissions, because trees have been cut, CO₂s are trapped and limiting the nature's ability to absorb the CO₂s

In addition, OiTL's delegation also participated in activities in Thailand to discuss the Asia Safeguarding focal point training to discuss and talk about the context of safeguarding in Oxfam, reviewing the feminist principle in relation to safeguarding, and discussing the acceptance of good culture of safeguarding in Oxfam.

MEDIA CENTRE

The establishment of media centre such as the Timor-Leste Agriculture Coalition Network is a network involving farmers, groups of persons with disabilities, the private sector, women and men in agriculture, youth organisations, LGBTQI, cooperative groups, social movements, civil society organisations and other groups interested in climate change issues, women and land, fiscal sustainability, and how to challenge the government to develop the agricultural sector and promote a sustainable and inclusive diverse economy in Timor-Leste.

The Coalition Network agreed to reactivate and establish the Media Centre at the Secretariat of the Land Network in Farol, Dili, to monitor, monitor and advocate for discussions on the 2024 General State Budget Proposal. This centre will facilitate space for a range of people and organisations to give their views and follow the 2024 State Budget debate process in the National Parliament.

The Timor-Leste Agricultural Coalition Network also asked the National Parliament and the Government to discuss in depth about the situation that Timor-Leste is facing.

As we all know, the majority of the population works in the agricultural sector, although economic growth in the sector is very limited. The country's economic growth is mainly centralized in Dili rather than rural areas, especially it mostly benefited the middle class and the elites in the urban rather than the family of farmers in rural areas. The inequality and the impact of economic growth in Timor-Leste is more significant when we pay attention to the situation of the marginalized population in rural areas. Developing the agriculture sector in an inclusive method is key to reducing poverty in Timor-Leste.



RAI-MATAK PROJECT: EMPOWERING RURAL COMMUNITIES



Through the Rai-Matak project, we have conducted an excessive training session on agroforestry for our partners for three days. This session aims to prepare participants with the knowledge and skills needed to effectively implement agroforestry through practical means, in order to contribute to carbon neutrality in our region.

During these sessions, our objectives are clear: to prepare participants with the knowledge and skills needed to effectively implement agroforestry practices. Through the implementation of this activity, we want to make a strong contribution to carbon neutrality in Timor-Leste. But our efforts did not stop there. We are also involved in comprehensive socialisation efforts, delineation of key areas, and agreements with relevant stakeholders.

Within our work we are committed to sustainable practises and community engagement. We believe that by strengthening our partners with the necessary tools and understanding to implement agroforestry, we can create a more environmentally friendly future for our region.



STRENGTHEN WOMEN'S RIGHTS AND LAND RIGHTS: ENSURE A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

The Women and Land Rights Project and the Land Rights Project (Women and Land Rights Project) strive to protect and guarantee land rights for all people, especially vulnerable groups such as women and persons with disabilities. Our objective is to exercise influence at the political, legislative and implementation levels to ensure that state programmes and social norms support these rights. To achieve this, we recognize the importance of evidence-based approaches and are actively involved in collaborative research programmes. Improving systems and perspectives in this regard requires a solid evidence base, and therefore our commitment to collaborative research initiatives.



In order to build a sustainable future for women and land rights, it is essential that communities and civil society become the focus of development of support programmes. This involves intensive capacity building focused on women's rights to land, political engagement, legal framework, programmes, and institutional support. Through community and civil society capacity building, we want to create a solid foundation for sustainable progress.

Our work has extended the immediate impact of forming long-term policies and practises that prioritize women's rights to land. Through advocacy, education, and strategic partnerships, we want to create permanent change that is not only for current generations but also for future generations.



HAKBI'IT: OVERCOMES THE CHALLENGES OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC GROWTH AND WELL-BEING

Markets are important pillars of economic and social development in Timor-Leste, and this is also an important driver of agricultural value and is the local economic centre. With a range of local products that expand the space of the market, they not only facilitate trade but also promote community cohesion and resilience. Particularly important is the important role that women's suppliers play, which consists of an estimated 75-90% of market entrepreneurs, who have well invested their income to their families, which emphasizes the significant impact of their work on household sustainability and child education.

Recent research by Bridging People has highlighted the challenges faced in Timor-Leste's markets, and highlighted the urgent need for strengthening infrastructure and improving management practices. The results of the assessment conducted in the Maumate and Pune markets show many gaps in basic facilities, leading to health hazards for producers and consumers. From inadequate water and sanitation systems to climate vulnerable infrastructure, these problems are not only harmful to living conditions but also affect public health and safety.

In addition, accessibility is a major problem with the Maumate and Pune markets where road conditions are very difficult, especially during the rainy season, and this hinders proper operation and dissipation of potential customers to the market. The driver's efforts to take measures to protect against floods, which show that their circumstances are not good and are essential for immediate action.



The validation of these challenges has extended beyond the boundaries of the market, which has always brought problems to the living conditions of the community, women's security, and public health. Therefore, the efforts that have been consulted to address these various issues, strengthen market resilience, strengthen economic opportunities, and promote inclusive development.



DISABILITY INCLUSION ADVOCACY: OPEN THE BOOK PROJECT (OTB)

The Open The Book (OTB) project comes with the mission of promoting the rights of individuals with disabilities in our country. Our objectives are clear: first, to influence state authorities, such as the government, to consider and integrate the rights of persons with disabilities in the process of defining programmes and budget allocation. Second, our objective is to advocate for the implementation of the National Action Plan for Persons with Disabilities (PAN-EhD) through the influence of ministries and State Secretariats. Finally, we dedicated ourselves to requiring the government to approve the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD).

During the last two years (2022-2024), the Open The Book has provided capacity building to our partners, including the Organization for Disabilities, the Promoter Group and the Allies, to analyze and monitor the State Budget based on the UNCRPD. This empowerment gives them confidence and knowledge to participate actively in them as a right-based budget analysis. Our partners, together with the promoter and ally groups, have been actively involved in influencing ministries and state Secretariats to allocate the State Budget aligned with the rights of persons with disabilities.



We have made a great effort, through engagement such as hearing sessions with the Ministers, participation in various discussions with state authorities, budget analysis and submission to the National Parliament, including press meetings to show concerns, we continue to advocate for consideration of disability inclusion in government programmes during 2023 to 2028. Through these collective actions we strive to promote a more inclusive society where the rights of persons with disabilities are not only recognized but prioritized in policy and budget decisions.



ADVOCACY AND INFLUENCE: STRENGTHENING TIMOR-LESTE'S FUTURE

Oxfam in Timor-Leste, along with the influencing team working in the fair climate justice, gender justice and economy, is involved in a strong discussion on critical issues integrated into the country's submission. In October 2023, Oxfam conducted and presented a proposal to the National Parliament on the 2024 State Budget (OJE). This proposal emphasizes important issues such as economic diversification, investment in agriculture, women's rights, land rights, environmental concerns, climate change, and climate financing, which underlie Oxfam's commitment to promoting a more equitable and sustainable future.

Oxfam is building partnerships with key stakeholders to expand its impact. In collaboration with the Association of Timor-Leste Journalists (AJTL) and the Network of Agriculture This media centre is a place for civil society organisations, youth, farmers, women, persons with disabilities, and the media to invite and use it as a space to share ideas and information. Other activities include initiatives such as press release, media information, television talk programmes, podcasts, and press release to ensure strong discussions on topics and issues to continue to remind policy makers especially during the debate process of the General Budget in the National Parliament.





ACRONYMS

- OiTL Oxfam iha Timor-Leste / Oxfam in Timor-Leste
- AJTL Asosiasaun Jornalista Timor-Leste
- SEPFOPE Secretario Do Estado Para A Politica De Formacao Profissional E Emprego
- RHTO Ra’es Hadomi Timor Oan
- SEI Secretaria De Estado Da Igualdade
- INSS Instituisaun Nasional de Seguransa Social
- EDTL E.P, Electrisidade De Timor-Leste
- OTB Open The Book
- PAN-EhD Planu Asaun Nasional ba Ema ho Defisiensia
- UNCRPD Konvensaun Nasoins Unidas kona-ba Direitu Ema ho Defisiensia
- OJE Orsamentu Geral Estadu
- LGBTQI Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trangender, Queer, Questioning, Intersex

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