

OXFAM IN TIMOR-LESTE

NEWSLETTER

October 2021 Edition



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MESSAGE FROM THE COUNTRY DIRECTOR



Fausto 'Nino' Belo Ximenes, Oxfam in Timor-Leste's Country Director, sentru Dili
[Ross Merry da Gloria/OxfamTL]

FRIENDS! I am Fausto Belo Ximenes; usually, people call me Nino. It is with great pride and excitement that I assume the role of Country Director for Oxfam in Timor-Leste (OiTL) for the period 2021-2023. Oxfam, a renowned civil society organization established in the aftermath of the Second World War, has been an integral part of Timor-Leste's journey since the days of Indonesian occupation. Following the historic independence referendum in 1999, Oxfam officially established its presence in the country, extending support to local communities.

As I embark on this significant role, I am filled with enthusiasm to collaborate with the dedicated team at OiTL, as well as our esteemed partners, allies, movements, and local communities. Together, we aim to foster a fair, inclusive, and sustainable future for Timor-Leste.

The year 2021 has presented formidable challenges, from navigating the complexities of the COVID-19 pandemic to grappling with the aftermath of Cyclone Seroja, which brought devastation to many lives and livelihoods. In this moment, I extend my heartfelt appreciation to our partners, allies, networks, movements, and generous donors who steadfastly support Oxfam's mission in Timor-Leste. Your dedication is my daily inspiration.

PROFILE PARTNER BINIBU FAEF NOME (BIFANO)

- Jacinto Mala
Diretór BIFANO

Binibu Faef Nome (BIFANO) was established in Oesilo, Oecusse on 12 December 2000.

The collaboration between BIFANO and Oxfam in Timor-Leste (OiTL) began in 2010, marking the beginning of a fruitful partnership. Initially focusing on health and sanitation initiatives, our joint efforts included promoting hygiene awareness, constructing toilets in community households, and organizing film screenings on children's nutrition. As our partnership evolved, we expanded our endeavors to encompass an integrated program covering various sectors such as economy, agriculture, environment, and cooperatives across six sukus in Oesilu, Nitibe, and Pante Makassar.

BIFANO actively participated in the Disaster READY program, engaging in training sessions on gabion construction and the implementation of customary rules like tara bandu. In 2018, the establishment of the District Disaster Management Committee (DDMC) marked a significant milestone, facilitating the identification of community resources through Community Action Plans (CAP) and mapping exercises. Currently, BIFANO continues its involvement in community development by facilitating the Hakbi'it program and conducting socialization activities aimed at COVID-19 prevention. This includes distributing essential equipment and humanitarian aid to community members, schools, and other institutions.

IMPLEMENTATION OF AHP-COVID-19 PROGRAM BY PERMATIL IN AINARO MUNICIPALIT

| Cris Caetano – Resilience Program Senior Manager



Sra. Anita Neno, aldeia Sifin, suku Usi-Tasa'e, Oecusse [Jacinto Mala/Bifano]



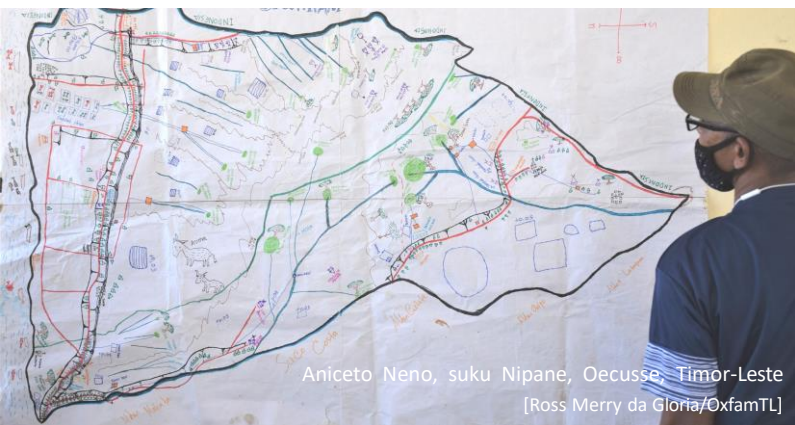
Professora Mariana, Lamberto Gama (KSI), Moises Mota - Oecusse, [Rosentino Amaral/Permatil]

Oxfam in Timor-Leste (OiTL) partnered with PERMATIL to implement the COVID-19 Response Program at the EBC school in Hatubuilico town, Ainaro municipality. Moises Mota, the school's director, expressed heartfelt gratitude for the invaluable support provided by PERMATIL, which included the provision of a water tank and soap for handwashing, along with educational sessions on COVID-19 prevention. OiTL and its dedicated partners went

above and beyond, supplying water tanks and buckets for handwashing, distributing informative posters on COVID-19 prevention measures, and conducting comprehensive hygiene training sessions. These efforts extended beyond schools to encompass institutions, markets, and health posts, ensuring widespread awareness and preparedness.

Moreover, the program extended crucial support to the community, reaching 575 households with essential food packages and 343 households with seed packages. Through these initiatives, a total of 11,850 community members benefited, receiving vital assistance during the challenging times posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

MONITORING THE AHP-DISASTER READY PROGRAM IN NIPANE SUKU, OECUSSE



Aniceto Neno, suku Nipane, Oecusse, Timor-Leste
[Ross Merry da Gloria/OxfamTL]

ARE WE PREPARED FOR NATURAL DISASTER?

In Nipane suku, Oecusse, Oxfam in Timor-Leste (OiTL) implemented the Disaster READY program, collaborating with the community to identify resources and assess natural disaster risks near their homes and farmlands. Pedro Eko, the suku chief of Nipane, conveyed his heartfelt appreciation to BIFANO, CVTL, and OiTL for actively engaging the community in this vital program.

- **Cris Caetano**
Resilience Program Senior Manager

"Through the Community Action Plan (CAP), we collectively identified natural resources and areas vulnerable to natural disasters. This valuable information enabled us to create detailed maps and formulate strategic action plans for effective disaster mitigation," expressed Eko. He emphasized how the CAP facilitated the identification of safe evacuation locations for community members during emergencies, streamlining coordination with local authorities and enhancing preparedness efforts.

SUPPORT FOR PEOPLE AFFECTED BY CYCLONE SEROJA

- **João Corbafo**
Resilience Program Officer

Following the devastating flooding on 4 April 2021, Elizabeth Sequeira, a widow from Maunaben village, Cunha suku, Oecusse, found herself grappling with the damage caused by the natural disaster. "The heavy rains and winds destroyed the crops on my farm, which are crucial for my family's livelihood. Our house was also damaged by the flooding, leaving us uncertain about our future," expressed Elizabeth, reflecting on the challenges she faced. In response to the plight of flood victims like Elizabeth, OiTL and BIFANO stepped forward to provide much-needed support. Recognizing the urgency of the situation, they collaborated with RAEOA authorities to distribute non-food aid packages, including essential kitchen and personal hygiene items, to affected households.



Elizabeth Sequeira, Maunaben Village, suku Cunha, Oecusse, Timor-Leste
[Jacinto Mala/Bifano]

Elizabeth expressed her gratitude to OiTL, BIFANO, and the local authorities for their swift response and assistance during this challenging time. "I am thankful for their efforts to alleviate the suffering we are enduring," she remarked, acknowledging the crucial support that has provided a lifeline to families affected by the floods.

LAND NETWORK'S SUPPORT FOR COMMUNITY IN THE LEGAL PROCESS

• Zeca Nunes

Economic and Climate Justice Program officer

In 2014, the Land Network took on the Kaikoli case, a significant legal case between the community and a state entity, stemming from the government's plan to expand the headquarters of the National Police of Timor-Leste (PNTL). This plan affected seventeen households and one Chinese-owned shop, with seven households accepting the compensation offer while ten refused.

Despite the challenges encountered, community members, supported by the Land Network, demonstrated unwavering determination to unite and fight for their rights. The community's collaboration with the Land Network has been instrumental in advocating for their interests, which have not received adequate consideration from the National Directorate for Land and Property. Ongoing advocacy efforts at both the community and national levels have been intensified to address these issues.

The Land Network, operating as a national-level advocacy network, collaborates closely with member organization Jurists for Advocacy and plays a crucial role in Oxfam in Timor-Leste's "Women and Land Rights" project.



This initiative aims to defend community land rights, including ensuring women's access to and ownership of land. Additionally, the project monitors the development and implementation of land legislation to ensure that these laws safeguard the rights of vulnerable populations, including women, men, and people with disabilities.



THE IMPORTANCE OF APPLYING THE AVISION OF THE GENDER **BALANCE** TREE IN FAMILIES

- Salina Hanjan
Coordinator of Gender and Inclusion
Program

Why women are the only allowed to do housework tasks? In many communities, entrenched patriarchal practices persist, restricting women's participation in various aspects of social, economic, and political life. Salina Hanjan, Coordinator of the Gender and Inclusion Program, emphasizes the importance of challenging these norms and attitudes to achieve gender balance within families.

"Previously I did not really help my wife with household work, but after participating in the GALS training using the tool Gender Balance Tree I recognize that my wife's carries a heavier burden than me when taking care of the household. This made me feel sad, and now I have taken on responsibility for some housework, such as washing dishes and taking care of the children," said Julio Freitas, OiTL's MEL Coordinator.

The Hakbi'it project, funded by the Australian Government through its NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP), has been pivotal in implementing GALS training for OiTL program staff. Facilitated by Mrs. Helena Zefanias Lowe, an international consultant from Mozambique, the training aims to instill a transformative approach towards advocating for gender equality.

Projeitu ida ne'e konsidera GALS nudar Recognizing GALS as a powerful tool for promoting gender equality, the Hakbi'it project integrates this approach to advocate for collective action, raise institutional awareness, challenge power dynamics, and develop livelihood plans. By empowering individuals like Julio to recognize and address gender imbalances within their families, initiatives like the Gender Balance Tree contribute to fostering more equitable and inclusive communities.



Julio Francisco Freitas, MEL Coordinator, Oxfam in Timor-Leste
[Ross Merry da Gloria/OxfamTL]

TV TALKSHOW ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION AND THE #GSB2022 GENERAL STATE BUDGET

• Zevonia Vieira Campaign Coordinator

OiTL organized a series of TV talk shows under the overarching theme, "Diversifying our economy by investing in agriculture and other productive sectors through the 2022 General State Budget" (GSB).

These programs serve as a platform for a diverse array of guests, representing government bodies, civil society, and Farmer groups, including individuals with disabilities and youth.



La'o Hamutuk researcher, Eliziaria Febe Gomes, Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, Pedro Reis, young women farmer, Ana Paula, and moderator, Adilsonio da Costa Junior [Zevonia Vieira/OxfamTL]

Throughout the talk shows, participants delved into crucial topics concerning the realities faced by farmers and their pivotal role in food production. The discussions underscored the significance of the agriculture sector as the cornerstone of Timor-Leste's economic advancement. Furthermore, they emphasized the necessity of reducing dependence on oil and gas revenues and imported goods, aligning with the government's vision for economic diversification outlined in the #GSB2022.



Secretary of State for Cooperatives (SECOOP), Elizariu Ferreira, Silva Bukamo Group Coordinator, Cesaltina da S.A Freitas, PARCIC Country Director, Junko Ito, Moderator, Zevonia Vieira [Milky/OxfamTL]

SOCIALISATION ACTIVITY REPORT BOX IN OECUSSE

• Marcus Oqi
AFFOS Supervisor

In August 2021, AFFOS conducted a crucial socialization activity aimed at empowering community leaders in Maunaben village, Cunha suku, Pante-Makassar sub-region, Oecusse. The initiative brought together key stakeholders, including local leaders and group representatives, to disseminate essential information and foster dialogue on various pertinent issues. The event commenced with an informative session attended by ten participants, predominantly comprising male leaders alongside one female representative. Among the attendees were the village chief, delegates, bairro heads, and group leaders, including women recognized for their leadership potential.

Key activities undertaken during the vent included:

- Introduction of informational posters detailing the process for reporting community concerns related to the AFFOS program. These posters elucidated the program's objectives, outcomes, and challenges, aiming to encourage transparent communication between OiTL, AFFOS, and the community.



- Dispelling misconceptions and sensitizing participants to the importance of improving collaboration between stakeholders. Emphasis was placed on fostering an open dialogue conducive to addressing community needs effectively.
- Raising awareness about child protection measures, particularly in the context of natural disasters. Participants were equipped with knowledge on safeguarding children during emergencies, enhancing community resilience.
- Guidance on the procedure for filing written complaints or submitting complaints via telephone, ensuring that community members understood the avenues available for voicing their concerns.

Mr. Jerenimus Lafu, the chief of Maunaben village, assumed the role of coordinator for the volunteer disaster response team—a testament to the community's commitment to proactive disaster preparedness. He underscored the significance of the information disseminated during the activity, emphasizing its role in enabling communities to articulate their challenges effectively.

TENTATIVE EVENT CALENDAR

October to December 2021

OCTOBER

- Distribute signage to six schools EBF Oelniti,EBF Oenoah,EBF Oebaha,EBF Huebanais,EBF Nonkikan,no EBF Kiupanaf [A-FFOS](#)
- Land-mapping & Ground-truthing - Covalima - [CCC, Community Forestry Officers & Project Officer](#)
- Provide hand-soap to two schools to enable students and teachers to wash hands frequently [A-FFOS](#)
- Hold discussion with people with disabilities about small business activities, based on their abilities, [AFFOS, Maneo and KSI with support from RHTO](#)
- Distribute food to poor households in the community (healthy local products) [A-FFOS](#)
- Conduct capacity assessment for partners [APFTL](#)
- Partners submit their finance report ([All Partners](#))

NOVEMBER

- Accompany ROMANSA, including sharing guideline materials to the COVID-19 loans and savings group (ROMANSA book, cash box) [A-FFOS](#)
- Accompany GALS group members which have received GALS training [BIFANO, AFFOS, Maneo, KSI, ED, RHTO](#)
- Publish information about establishing institutional safeguarding policies. [Affos, Bifano, Maneo, KSI, RHTO, ED ho supporta husi Oxfam](#)
- Provide soap to health posts/clinics: [A-FFOS](#)
- PCA for new project partners [Rai Matak in Baucau](#)
- Safeguarding Training for Rai Matak partners in Kovalima and Baguia ([CCC & HMI](#))

DECEMBER

- Land-mapping & Ground-truthing - [Liquisa KSI, Community Forestry Officers & Project Officer](#)
- Training on small businesses in 8 villages [Bifano, Maneo, Affos](#)
- Establish institutional safeguarding policies [Affos, Bifano, Maneo, KSI, RHTO, ED ho supporta husi Oxfam](#)
- Provide hand-soap to two schools to enable students and teachers to wash hands frequently [A-FFOS](#)
- Launch Oxfam in Timor-Leste's Country Strategy 2021-2025

ACRONYMS

A

AFFOS: Asosiasaun Futuru

Foinsa'e ba Sustentavel

AHP: Australian Humanitarian
Partnership

APFTL : Alumni Parlamento
Foinsa'e Timor-Leste

B

BIFANO: Binibu Faef Nome

C

CCC : Centro Comunidade
Covalima

COVID: Coronavirus disease

D

DDMC : District Disaster
Management Committee

G

GALS: Gender Action
Learning System

H

HMI: Ho Musan Ida

J

JA: Jurista Advokasia

K

KSI: Kadalak Sulimutu
Institute

O

ONG: Organizasaun Non-
Governmental

OJE: Orsamentu Jeral do
Estado

P

PAK: Planu Asaun
Komunidade

R

RAEOA: Regiao
Administrativa Especial
Oe-Cusse Ambeno

RbR: Rede ba Rai

RHTO : Ra'es Hadomi Timor
Oan

SUPPORTED BY:





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