



TIMOR ZERO HUNGER

INTERIM REPORT | Nov. 2019 – June 2020



SUMMARY

Timor Zero Hunger, which Week of Compassion has been supporting since 2015, was designed to help families in remote and impoverished southeast Indonesia face the complex challenges of hunger and malnutrition, especially for young children. To broaden the Timor Zero Hunger approach to sustainable change for women and teenage girls, and again with support from Week of Compassion, CWS pioneered the *Berdaya* (Empowerment) initiative in 2017. While *Berdaya* was added to the Timor Zero Hunger project in West Timor, core program activities focused on water and farming started in Timor-Leste, which shares Timor island with Indonesia.

With an overarching aim to help families improve their food security with improved agriculture, poultry-raising and supplementary income-generating activities have been added to the program. Now known as Timor Zero Hunger-Plus (T0H+) the initiative is engaging families and government duty bearers to identify locally-specific issues of disaster risk, particularly from climate change, that negatively affect their lives and livelihood options.

Over the past eight months, T0H+ has expanded its reach to an increasing number of families in West Timor and Timor-Leste. Together, and with CWS support, they are addressing increasingly complex development challenges, which now include issues of local climate change.

Recently, through T0H+ participation, 411 women and 404 men have more knowledge and means to assess locally-specific climate change/related vulnerabilities to avoid near- and long-term disaster. Another 257 women and 250 men enhanced their abilities to adapt their farming practices by using new community-based coping/resilience strategies. Among these, 170 women and 135 men have improved access to safe water to support their adaptation.

NOTE: Because of the COVID-19 crisis, program activities slowed down in West Timor in late March per government restrictions on gatherings and travel. Since June, activities are back on track and implementation is accelerating to ensure all activities are done as scheduled, with staff observing all relevant government protocols and restrictions with regard to COVID-19.

BACKGROUND

Timor island is at the far southeast end of the Indonesian archipelago and about 450 miles northeast of Darwin, Australia. The western half of the island, West Timor, is part of Indonesia. The eastern half is Timor-Leste, an independent nation. Conditions in Timor are quite difficult for poor families as they mostly rely on subsistence agriculture. These years, families are particularly affected by climate change, especially drought.

CWS has partnered with communities and families in Indonesia and Timor-Leste for decades. Timor Zero Hunger started with CWS CROP Hunger Walk funding in 2014 to help West Timor families face the complex challenges of child hunger and malnutrition. Week of Compassion has generously supported the project's growth and strengthening since 2015 to broaden the Timor Zero Hunger approach to sustainable change for women and girls. As noted, and again with Week of Compassion support, CWS pioneered *Berdaya* (Empowerment) in 2017. Through that initiative, women farmers formed saving groups, improved their knowledge of family and business financial management, started saving and then making small loans to members. Since then, borrowers have started, improved or expanded a variety of home-based micro businesses. In addition, through *Berdaya*, girls ages 14 to 19 and village Health Post volunteers learned accurately about adolescent sexual and reproductive health; some girls are Peer Educators with support from adult supervisors.

While *Berdaya* was added to the Timor Zero Hunger project in West Timor, core program activities expanded to Timor-Leste. This was done not least because the CWS Indonesia / Timor-Leste team recognized that socioeconomic and natural conditions like poverty and drought do not change at national borders. And there was awareness of Timor-Leste's acute development needs. So, CWS invested CROP Hunger Walk funds to expand. The first two years of Timor Zero Hunger programming in Timor-Leste district have gone well. T0H+ is growing.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION / OBJECTIVES

With better farming and gardening, poultry-raising and other supplementary income-generating activities, T0H+ engages families and government duty bearers to identify locally-specific issues of disaster risk, particularly from climate change. The intent is to see and assess factors that negatively affect their lives and livelihood options. Now, after naming, considering and prioritizing key issues with all stakeholders, T0H+ staff support locally-appropriate and practically-possible actions among farm families. The goal is to help each family improve their farming in order to further improve their livelihoods and food security.

Specifically, T0H+ supports communities to build their adaptive capacities (knowledge, skills, action planning, action taking) to reduce their risks from accelerating climate change – and drought, specifically – and build resilience.

- a. Objective 1: To help communities develop capacity, including more knowledge and means, to assess locally specific climate change / related vulnerabilities to avoid near- and long-term disaster
- b. Objective 2: To help families gain / enhance their capacity to adapt their farming using new community-based coping/resilience strategies
- c. Objective 3: To ensure families have improved access to safe water to support their adaptation to and coping with drought
- d. Objective 4: Info-data exists for continuous project improvement and future expansion

PROJECT PARTICIPANTS

Outcomes	Project Participants NOV'19 – JUN'20	
	Men	Women
Communities have capacity, including knowledge and means, to assess locally specific climate change/related vulnerabilities to avoid near- and long-term disaster	404	411
Families' ability to adapt their farming using new community-based coping/resilience strategies is enhanced	250	257
Families have improved access to safe water to support adaptation to drought	135	170

PROGRAM RESULTS

Objective 1: To help communities develop capacity, including more knowledge and means, to assess locally specific climate change/related vulnerabilities to avoid near- and long-term disaster

With support from Week of Compassion, CWS supported community climate change adaptation in these ways:

- **Community Climate Vulnerability and Capacity Analysis:** project participants in nine villages undertook Climate Vulnerability and Capacity Analyses and presented their findings for discussion in community meetings. All families' coping and adaptation measures and behaviors, as well as alternative adaptation and change options, were reviewed.
- **Community Climate Change Adaptation Action Plans:** a workshop to develop a Plan in each village is scheduled for August. After each Plan is done, communities will test adaptation options.

Objective 2: To help families gain/enhance their capacity to adapt their farming using new community-based coping/resilience strategies

Using the results of the Climate Vulnerability and Capacity Analysis as guidance, CWS supported adaptation activities to achieve these outputs and results:

- Project participants formed 11 **farmer's groups** with 257 women and 250 men in seven villages. These groups will support Community Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan roll-out in their villages.
- In a series of workshops, 186 people learned about **farmland conservation** and **organic fertilizer and pesticide production and use**. These project participants learned about crop terracing; reintroducing climate-adaptive sorghum to their farms as an alternative to corn, and how to make / use organic fertilisers and pesticides.
 - Two groups are piloting an initiative to plant a new corn variety that is more resilient to the effects of climate change than the variety they now plant.
 - CWS has supported all farmers groups with 600 liters of organic fertilizer and 60 liters of organic pesticides to complement their home-made outputs for this year's corn, which is the staple food in Timor and the main source of livelihood for most farmers.
 - More organic fertilizer and pesticide making workshops are set for August and September.
- In an effort to improve **chicken raising and home gardening**, 192 families in seven villages have built chicken coops and received 384 chickens as well as seeds and tool for home gardening. During the reporting period 101 families started home gardening; more will start in July. Additional workshops on proper chicken raising and home gardening techniques will

be done in September.

- To reduce exposure to aflatoxins and post-harvest loss of corn, the CWS team is supporting an initiative to **make storage containers using galvanized steel**. Each farmers' group will receive materials and technical support to build a 500kg storage container. The material has been procured and technical support is scheduled for August.

NOTE: In 2016, Week of Compassion gave the CWS Incubation Lab a small grant so the T0H team could study the impact of aflatoxins in exacerbating chronic food insecurity in West Timor. Aflatoxins are produced by fungi on crops like corn, peanuts, cottonseed and tree nuts. Exposure to aflatoxins is associated with an increased risk of liver cancer. People are exposed to aflatoxins since their staple crops are corn, beans and peanuts. In fact, they are at risk of losing up to 50% of their harvest due to poor post-harvest storage, which also increases the risk of insect infestations and aflatoxin contamination. So, one clear way to prevent aflatoxin contamination of corn harvests is improved storage. Since several container types are available to the farmers with whom CWS works, the Timor Zero Hunger team assessed the effectiveness of each container in preventing or reducing aflatoxin contamination in stored corn. The galvanized steel containers have advantages: they are sturdy and can last 25-50 years; they are made locally from relatively inexpensive and readily available materials; and they can be sized to meet each farmer's or farmers' group needs. So, this container was recommended for wider use – though it will be good for everyone to know that any of the tested containers is a significant improvement over traditional storage practice. Now T0H+ is supporting the expansion of the use of galvanized steel containers.

Objective 3: To ensure families have improved access to safe water to support their adaptation to and coping with drought.

With WOC funding, CWS supported access to safe water to achieve these outputs and results:

- Families in Maumeta village, Timor-Leste, worked together to protect a spring and build a water tank. Now 50 families (170 women / girls and 135 men / boys) have improved access to safe water for farming and household use.
- In West Timor community members have identified three springs to provide improved access to safe water for 102 families (216 women/girls; 202 men/boys) in Teas and Enoneten villages. Water intakes and storage tanks building is now scheduled for August.

Activities toward this objective were delayed by COVID-19 government restrictions on community gatherings. However, during the time of restrictions on some activities, the team took up the challenge and opportunity to step up handwashing promotion. With technical support from CWS, 182 families in five villages in West Timor and Timor-Leste added 182 public sinks, with soap, for all community members' use.

Objective 4: Info-data exists for continuous project improvement and future expansion

With support from Week of Compassion, CWS collect info-data to achieve these outputs and results:

- Baseline survey, info-data analysis and interpretation done. The baseline survey shows > 90% of respondents had no prior knowledge about climate change adaptation; none had ever joined an education activity on this topic nor taken action to adapt to climate change
- Survey findings were shared during a workshop with community members and government duty bearers.
- Monitoring, evaluation, accountability and learning tools were finalized by the CWS/T0H+ team in November 2019
- Project monitoring, evaluation and learning information is routinely shared with community members and government duty bearers.

STORY OF CHANGE: Farmers learn new, environmentally-friendly farming techniques

To inspire better gardening practices, 43 members of West Timor's Nunloe farmers' group recently took the opportunity to learn about the causes and impacts of climate change, and about the harmful environmental impact of many farming practice common in West Timor.

The information was shared during a number of sessions convened by staff from CWS and a local NGO partner, the Community Association for Disaster Management. Topics included the harmful effects, such as smoke inhalation and toxic substance release, of backyard burning, and of chemical fertilizers and pesticides use. Both practices are the norm among Nunloe group members, and most were unaware, fully, of their harmful effects. In addition to the long-term damage chemical fertilizers do to soil, their risks and harm to human health was also discussed.

While gathered to learn about these factually proven results of their waste burning and chemicals use, farmers had a chance to share **their own facts**: *declining crop yields over the last few years*. With new information and awareness and, honestly, nothing to lose and a lot to gain, the group agreed that their next vegetable gardening would be supported by organic fertilizers and pesticides as well as terraced planting to retain water and soil nutrients, and to support an expanded variety of vegetables.

Now the Nunloe farmers' group is using manure-based organic fertilizer and is planting on terraces. These two techniques alone have seen them through this year's long dry season. Realizing that they have a lot more to learn about sustainable changes they can make to help ensure their resilience for the future, the group was happy to have taken a small step to make a big difference for a healthy and safe tomorrow.

In the cover photo of this report, you'll see members of the Nunloe farmers' group. They have started using manure as organic fertilizer and is planting seeds on terraces. By adopting the new techniques, the group was able to turn dry, and previously unused, land into fertile soil that will allow sustainable planting of vegetables.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Description	Budget	Expenditures
Objective 1. Communities have capacity, including knowledge and tools, to assess locally-specific climate change/related vulnerabilities to avoid near- and long-term disaster	\$8,950	\$7,123.65
Objective 2. Families' ability to adapt their farming using new community-based strategies is enhanced	\$24,247	\$11,130.41
Objective 3. Families have improved access to safe water to support adaptation to drought	\$3,966	\$826.50
Objective 4. Info-data exists for continuous project improvement for future expansion	\$2,084	\$1,142
Program Support	\$20,753	\$6,884.11
	\$60,000	\$27,106.67