



## **Joint Press Release**

### **European Union and CARE International in Timor-Leste support families recover from the floods**

CARE International in Timor-Leste (CARE) will support the Government of Timor-Leste to provide housing to families affected by the April floods in Timor-Leste through €100,000 financial support for shelter technical assistance from the European Union.

The April floods were the biggest in 50 years. A surge in Covid-19 cases and the attempts to slow the spread have pushed already vulnerable people in Dili, and across Timor-Leste, into even more precarious positions as they try to find work, maintain hygiene and distancing practices. CARE is supporting families who have been impacted by the April floods by working alongside the Government of Timor-Leste to provide technical shelter support to at least 200 households in Dili.

This technical shelter support includes awareness raising of how to construct safe housing, ensuring the inclusion of women, girls, and people living with a disability. This ensures that everyone who needs shelter will be heard in the decision-making process, and will focus on identifying and increasing their meaningful participation in humanitarian decision-making for the future.

CARE will use the Lafaek magazine to reach 103,000 households in rural and remote areas, and CARE's Lafaek Facebook page to reach over 137,000 people in urban areas. In total, CARE will reach hundreds of thousands of people with information about safe house construction.

Peter Goodfellow, Country Director of CARE International in Timor-Leste said, "We are committed to supporting the Secretariat of Civil Protection to ensure that vulnerable families affected by the flooding are able to return home safely. Many families remain at risk of future flooding and landslides and we are proud to work with the European Union to reduce such households' vulnerability to future disasters through improved house construction techniques for resilient housing. Women and children are 14 times more likely than men to die in an emergency and its aftermath in the Asia-Pacific region. CARE's focus on bringing women into humanitarian planning actively reduces this gap."

The Ambassador of the European Union to Timor-Leste, Andrew Jacobs, recognised that climate change is exacerbating environmental degradation and said, "In addition to increasingly frequent and severe natural hazards triggering disaster, climate change and environmental degradation are among the root causes of conflict, food insecurity and displacement. Therefore, it's a good initiative to introduce activities such as flood awareness and risk communication awareness raising to community members in 13 municipalities through CARE's long-standing Lafaek educational magazine as designed in this programme".

For media inquiries, please contact:

Peter Goodfellow, Country Director, CARE International in Timor-Leste



### **About the European Commission's humanitarian aid programme**

The European Commission Humanitarian Aid department (ECHO), through funding of this action, aims at rebuilding and building back safer to increase resilience of communities that face recurrent flash floods, landslides and droughts.

### **About CARE International**

CARE works around the globe to save lives, defeat poverty and achieve social justice. CARE puts women and girls in the center because we know that we cannot overcome poverty until all people have equal rights and opportunities. CARE has been working in Timor-Leste since 1994. CARE's work in Timor-Leste focuses on humanitarian response and long-term sustainable development projects in agriculture and disaster risk reduction, education, community health and nutrition, sexual reproductive and maternal health, and women's participation and gender equality.