



# HAFORSA 2 PROJECT

## ATSABE RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT FOR IMPROVEMENT OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY

Founded in 1945, CARE's programming extends around the globe – working to save lives, defeat poverty and achieve social justice. One of the largest poverty-fighting organizations in the world, CARE works in over 100 countries, directly reaching more than 69 million people (73% women and girls) annually. CARE has been working in Timor-Leste since 1994, implementing agricultural projects since 2010. The HAFORSA 2 Project aims to increase agricultural productivity in Atsabe, Emera.

### AGRICULTURE IN ATSABE

The Ermera district is located in a mountainous region in Timor-Leste where 56.7% of its population lives in poverty - the second highest poverty rate in the country. The Atsabe administrative post is very remote and difficult to access.

Most people in the area are small-scale farmers and the agricultural productivity is very low due to unseasonable weather as a result of climate change and a significant lack of water during the dry season as Timor-Leste is one of the most water-stressed countries in the world. Farmers in Atsabe are highly dependent on rain-fed cultivation and are vulnerable to the slightest change in supply.

Female farmers often undertake labour-intensive work like drawing water and watering agricultural crops.

### CARE IN TIMOR-LESTE

CARE works in all 13 municipalities and reaches 47% of Timorese households – 102,000 people – with our nationwide disaster preparedness and assistance, education, sexual, reproductive and maternal health and rights, and rural livelihoods programming.

CARE International in Timor-Leste identifies Women's Economic Empowerment (WEE) as a Thematic Priority. CARE's agricultural projects in Timor-Leste focus on the improvement of agricultural productivity and diversity, food security, resilience to climate change, and livelihoods.

### HAFORSA 2

HAFORSA 2 is an agricultural based project (December 2020 - October 2023). The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) of Japan, through CARE International in Japan, funds the project, which is implemented by CARE International in Timor-Leste. HAFORSA 2 builds on the achievements of the HAFORSA 1 Project in increasing agricultural productivity in the Atsabe administrative post of Ermera by establishing agricultural water facilities and ensuring effective capacity to maintain the facilities in Atsabe.

The HAFORSA 1 Project was a three-year initiative implemented from 2016 to 2019. This project developed subsistence-based agricultural livelihoods to reduce poverty and to grow women's empowerment by increasing women's representation in agriculture.

## PROJECT AIMS

HAFORSA 1 recommended that future projects should:

- 1 Ensure women's empowerment and gender equality remain a key focus in order to transform social beliefs, norms and behaviours over time
- 2 Address water usage through training, improved technology and stronger regulations, as the impacts of climate change continue to threaten agriculture.

HAFORSA 2 aims to improve livelihoods in Atsabe, Ermera while creating more equitable roles between male and female farmers.

This will be achieved through the following outcomes:

- 1 Increasing horticultural production in farmlands of the Farmer's Groups
- 2 Strengthening leadership of women of the Facility Management Committees (FMCs) in decision-making related to maintenance of agricultural water supply system.



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## APPROACH

### To address low agricultural production

HAFORSA 2 will focus on improving water accessibility in the dry season.

To build capacity of target farmers to continue to improve agricultural productivity beyond the project period, the project will combine infrastructure settings of the water supply facilities to maximise the use of the irrigation areas and set the function of the FMCs to conduct the facilities maintenance work.

To address issues behind inequitable workloads and decision-making between male and female farmers, specifically the lack of confidence-building for female farmers to take up leadership roles, and the lack of community awareness on gender equality, the project will work to increase women's agency through skill and confidence building activities, change family relations through activities to engage and challenge women and men and boys, and address structural barriers by increasing the community leadership roles women hold in farmer groups.

## MEASURES OF SUCCESS

-  Water for agricultural activities accessible year-round
-  Farmlands of the Farmer's Groups for horticultural products expanded
-  23 Carry out year-round production of crops
-  Farmer's Groups regularly maintain water supply systems
-  Household chores shared equitably between men and women after community awareness of gender equality engages boys and men to change the belief that women are responsible for household tasks. This will reduce the double burden of women assuming both household and agricultural activities.
-  More female farmers in leadership roles.