



## HAFORSA 2

### ABOUT CARE

CARE is an international development and humanitarian organisation that has been working in Timor-Leste since 1994. With programmes that extend across all parts of the country, CARE works with partners to save lives, defeat poverty, and achieve social justice.

CARE works with remote, rural communities and civil society partners to combat gender inequality, as this has been shown to be one of the most effective ways to create sustainable development outcomes.

Ensuring well-being and a voice for women and girls in rural, disadvantaged areas is at the heart of CARE's work. This is achieved in four priority areas of Education, Women's Economic Empowerment, Health, and promoting Women's Voice in society through development and humanitarian programmes.

### ABOUT HAFORSA 2

The HAFORSA 2 is a five-year agricultural based project, funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Japan, through CARE International in Japan. Based in Atsabe, Ermera municipality, the project builds on the achievements of HAFORSA 1 in increasing agricultural productivity by establishing agricultural water facilities and ensuring effective capacity of community members to maintain the facilities. The project also addresses issues of inequitable power relations between female and male farmers by challenging traditional views on women's roles in agriculture, promoting equitable workloads and decision-making power between women and men, and advancing women's economic empowerment.

### PROJECT GOALS



**HAFORSA 1** recommended that future projects should:

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

**HAFORSA 2** aims to improve livelihoods of farmers in Atsabe, while creating more equitable roles between female and male farmers. This will be achieved through the following outcomes:

- Increasing horticulture production in farmlands of farmer groups
- Strengthening the leadership of women participating in the Facility Management Committees in decision-making processes.



## PROJECT PARTICIPANTS



CARE works with 12 local farmer groups in four villages in Atsabe. Some of the farmer groups sell vegetables to local schools for the school feeding programme, and others sell vegetables at local markets. Five groups established agricultural water supply systems in 2021 and expanded their farmlands. In 2022, seven groups have installed their drip-irrigation systems and built agricultural water supply systems in their respective areas.



## PROJECT APPROACH



HAFORSA 2 works to address low agricultural production in Atsabe by focusing on improving water accessibility in the dry season.

### To build the capacity of target farmers

To continue improving the agricultural production 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 function of the Facility Management Committees to conduct the facilities maintenance work.

### To address issues behind inequitable workloads and decision-making between female and male farmers by:

- Building the confidence of women farmers to take up leadership roles
- Increasing community awareness on gender equality
- Engaging male farmers to sensitise to sharing equitable workloads