



COVID-19 & HEALTH SYSTEMS STRENGTHENING SUPPORT PROJECT

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 THE PROJECT

Timor-Leste is facing economic and social effects from the aftermath of global COVID-19 pandemic and other health emergencies. As the country recovers, disadvantaged communities face multiple economic challenges, and the already stretched health system struggles to accommodate other needs.

The project will help ensure effective implementation of national COVID-19 and general public health emergency preparedness and response at the grass roots level. This will aim at strengthening coordination between community-level institutions and formal government programmes and services in the health sector. This will help ensure consistency in communicating accurate messaging on COVID-19, including infection control, hygiene and sanitation and other prevention measures at the community level.

The three-year project is funded by a grant from the Japan Social Development Fund and implemented by CARE International in Timor-Leste. The Japan Social Development Fund is a partnership between the Government of Japan and the World Bank to provide grants in support of community-driven development and poverty reduction projects that empower the most disadvantaged and vulnerable groups not reached by other programmes and improve their lives through direct benefits.

PROJECT GOALS



Focusing on the municipalities of Viqueque and Covalima, the project will strengthen the capacity of communities to be better prepared and to respond effectively to COVID-19 and other health emergencies by:

- Strengthening the connections and improving coordination between community-level institutions and formal government programmes and services in the health sector
- Strengthening the capacity of community organisations to prepare for and respond to health crises
- Improving community awareness, knowledge, attitudes, and behaviour of the COVID-19 virus and other health emergencies

PROJECT ACTIVITIES



Activities will build on CARE's experience in strengthening community emergency preparedness, and include:

- Support to Suco Disaster Management Committees
- Support to water management groups to improve access to clean and safe water
- Support to health staff and community leaders to undertake Behaviour Change Communication activities on hygiene and handwashing

COMMUNITIES



The project is set to work directly in partnership with remote, rural disadvantaged communities in Viqueque and Covalima

Healthcare worker gives information about COVID-19 vaccination to a patient.

