

FIGHT RURAL POVERTY

TIMOR-LESTE

HELP FARMERS GENERATE A DECENT INCOME



THE CHALLENGE

Timor-Leste (East Timor) is one of the poorest countries in Southeast Asia. Almost half the population lives below the poverty line.

It is largely an agricultural nation, with over 70% of people relying on their small-hold farms for survival.

Malnutrition and poor health are widespread and most rural households suffer from food shortages for at least one month of the year. This is known as "the hungry season".

Although it is well-placed to serve the Asian market, there are many hurdles to establishing a thriving business in Timor-Leste, including poor roading and access to banking services. With your help, Oxfam is working to find workarounds to give the poorest people a hand up.

THE PROBLEM YOU CAN HELP TO SOLVE

Oxfam is working to improve farmers' access to domestic and export markets by working with farmers in two remote regions that lie a day's drive or ferry ride from the capital Dili.

Research into high-value, high demand crops identified market opportunities for candlenut, mung beans, red beans, shallots and onions. Your support will help to establish and increase production of these crops.

We will work with farmer groups to provide wrap-around support in production, processing and marketing, so they can get the best return.

YOUR SUPPORT WILL:

- Provide farmers with expert advice on what to grow, where to sell and how to maximise yields.
- Help farmers establish "relay cropping" of mung and red beans to fully utilise their land.
- Ensure the right processing and storage of products so sellers can get the most for their money.
- Increase the life-span and nutritional value of their products.
- Connect farmers with farming and marketing co-operatives to share ideas & knowledge.
- Place women on business management courses and in management positions, so they have a say in the direction of farming co-operatives.
- Improve farmers' understanding of finance.
- Create neighbourhood savings and loan groups, so that people - especially women - have a place to put their money and withdraw it when they need it.

PROJECT TIMELINE

2016

2019

HOW CAN I HELP?

\$21

Can provide a family in Timor-Leste with vegetable seeds and young trees, resulting in increased nutrition and income.

\$75

Can provide seven Timor-Leste farmers with innovative training on sustainable farming techniques for the Timorese climate.

TOTAL FUNDING NEEDED: \$168,947



OXFAM
New Zealand

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