

KŌTUI

2021-2026

**KŌTUI IS A FIVE-YEAR PROGRAMME SPANNING
FOUR COUNTRIES IN THE WIDER PACIFIC REGION.
IT IS A NEGOTIATED PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN
OXFAM AOTEAROA AND THE NEW ZEALAND AID
PROGRAMME.**



OXFAM
Aotearoa

Photo: Collin Leafasia/Oxfam

KŌTUI PROGRAMME DESIGN SUMMARY

OXFAM AOTEAROA

Negotiated Partnership 2021-2026



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Negotiated partnerships are co-investment arrangements that take an outcomes-focused, programmatic approach to deliver development impact to the most vulnerable and marginalised. The total NZ \$12.4 million investment in the Kōtui programme is co-financed, with the New Zealand Aid Programme providing \$9.7 million and Oxfam providing \$2.7 million.

HERMINA'S STORY

Hermina Falo and her family have lived in Oecusse since Timor-Leste became independent in 1999. Her family is very loving, and they love to joke and laugh. Her husband lives with several physical and mental disabilities so a lot of the physical work for the family falls to Hermina. For several years now, Hermina has been finding it difficult to provide enough food for her family. The rainy season is increasingly unpredictable. Community members rely on local flora and fauna indicators and the predictions of the elders, but the disruption to weather patterns caused by climate change can mean that these traditional indicators are no longer accurately aligned with changes in season.



Oxfam's partner NGO BIFANO has worked with Hermina's family to improve their resilience to climate change by implementing terracing, mulching and other climate-smart techniques, and has accompanied community members to meet with local government to request food relief. While this has been helpful, climate breakdown - and now Covid-19 - keep making her situation more difficult. **It's clear that Hermina's situation requires a more systemic solution, one that looks not only at her situation in isolation, but at the wider context, and the forces that keep her poor.** 80% of Timor-Leste's poor, depend on agriculture for their livelihood. In addition to its own state budget, Timor-Leste receives more climate finance than any country in the South Pacific, but globally, only 1.7% of climate finance goes to small-scale farmers like Hermina.



"It rained for only one month. The rice and corn I planted flowered, but produced nothing. I got five bags of rice and only three bundles of corn. Every Saturday my children would come and ask me for money. I have no animals, I have no chicken, I have no pigs, what should I sell? All I had was my business of weaving mats, but \$2.50 a mat is not enough money to send the children to school and buy food. I didn't know if there would be enough food for me and my family or not. I didn't know if we would be able to survive or not."

KŌTUI WILL:

- Work with women like Hermina to make their experiences and needs heard within the family, community, and national policy forums
- Work with men and women in communities, organisations, and leadership positions to shift gender norms
- Look closely at how climate finance is used, including how much goes to women and farming families
- Build relationships with decision makers to maximise the uptake of findings into policy

KŌTUI OVERVIEW

WHAT IS KŌTUI?

The te reo Māori word kōtui means the binding together, or interlacing, during weaving. The woven mat represents dialogue and joint problem-solving in Pacific countries and in Timor-Leste. It is an appropriate symbol for a programme focused on inclusive and equitable governance. The term “haere kōtui” describes people walking together arm in arm. This programme seeks to walk together with people across the wider Pacific, binding us together to weave a more resilient future.

The purpose of the Kōtui programme is to increase the resilience, well-being and agency of women in the face of climate breakdown and disasters. The programme’s focus on resilience and well-being is grounded at the intersection between the accelerating challenges of climate change, entrenched gender inequities, and intractable issues associated with poor governance in the Pacific and Timor-Leste. **It is designed to drive systemic change for the most vulnerable and marginalised.**

EQUITABLE RESILIENCE

Kōtui aims to build **equitable resilience** – where resilience practice takes into account issues of social vulnerability and differential access to power, knowledge, and resources.

The projects included in the Kōtui programme focus on the governance of resources that underpin resilience. Each country has prioritised resources to focus on, and these include climate finance, land, information and financial services. By shifting gender norms and making relevant local and national governance forums more knowledgeable,

equitable and accountable, Kōtui will improve women’s access to these key resources, building resilience for the most vulnerable. To ensure outcomes are sustainable, Kōtui has a clear focus on strengthening local civil society organisations (CSOs) to advocate, monitor and influence policy actors for long-term and lasting change

Kōtui seeks two **long-term outcomes**:



Governance systems affecting resilience are more inclusive, accountable and gender responsive.



Women have more equitable access to resources and opportunities that matter to their resilience and well-being



Photo: Kate Bensen/Oxfam

KŌTUI OVERVIEW

THE PURPOSE OF THE KŌTUI PROGRAMME IS TO INCREASE THE RESILIENCE, WELL-BEING AND AGENCY OF WOMEN IN THE FACE OF CLIMATE BREAKDOWN AND DISASTERS.

The Kōtui programme will focus particularly on the lives of those women facing compounding marginalisation - such as disability, single parenthood, widowhood, or remoteness - in the wider Pacific region.

KŌTUI'S REACH

During the five years of the Kōtui programme, we anticipate that the programme will engage directly with 37,600 people, and benefit a further 200,000 people through policy change. The programme is therefore expected to reach a total of 238,000 people across Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, Timor-Leste and Papua New Guinea.

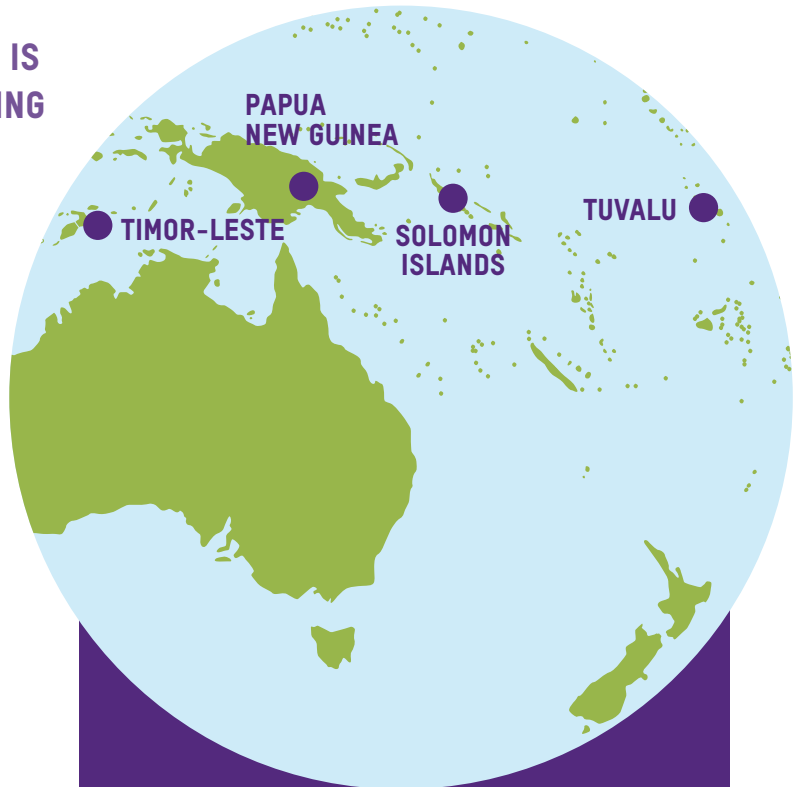
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GOVERNANCE

'Governance forums' refers to those decision-making bodies that govern the flow of resources and opportunities. These forums exist within 'governance systems' comprising the complex web of norms, expectations, laws, policies and traditions that determine who is involved in decision-making and how decisions are made.

CLIMATE FINANCE

'Climate finance' is the term used for funds that support people to stop climate destruction or adapt to its impacts. Effective climate finance is funding that all people can use and benefit from, especially people who experience discrimination and poverty.



AT THE END OF THE FIVE YEARS OF THE KŌTUI PROGRAMME WE EXPECT TO SEE:

- Improved food security, reduced vulnerability, and increased access to land and to water and sanitation services for women.
- Formal and informal governance systems that increasingly recognise and protect women's roles in resilience and well-being
- Increased participation and influence of women in governance forums
- Increased transparency and accountability around national resilience commitments and results
- Stronger civil society capacity to influence equitable resilience policy and action.

TOTAL INVESTMENT IN NZD (5 YEARS)

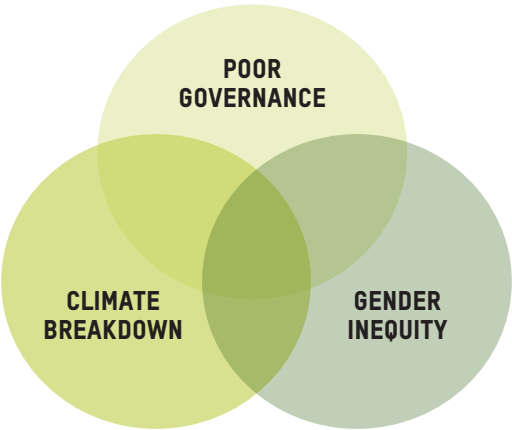
| NZ Aid Programme contribution % of total | Oxfam contribution | Total investment |
|---|--------------------|------------------|
| \$9,700,000 (78.5%) | \$2,660,000 | \$12,360,000 |

KŌTUI PROBLEM STATEMENT

WOMEN HAVE UNEQUAL ACCESS TO AND CONTROL OVER RESOURCES THAT ARE CRITICAL TO THEIR RESILIENCE AND WELL-BEING IN THE FACE OF CLIMATE BREAKDOWN AND DISASTERS.

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KŌTUI SEEKS TO ADDRESS THE NEXUS OF THREE INTERSECTING AREAS:



CORE FOCUS AREAS



The impacts of **CLIMATE BREAKDOWN** are increasing vulnerability and risks in the wider Pacific region. The cumulative effects of poverty and social, economic, and political barriers lead to disproportionately large impacts on women, the poor, and other marginalised groups. Pacific women are more likely to live in poorer and more remote areas and to depend on natural resources for their livelihoods, and so are more vulnerable to the impacts of disasters, and have less capacity to access resources for recovery. In emergencies, their care work increases, and income often decreases.



GENDER INEQUITY and its expression in restrictive social, cultural and religious norms leads to a lack of voice and agency, limiting women’s ability to participate in or influence decision-making mechanisms. Laws, policies, and regulations are underscored by deeply entrenched gender and social norms. This results in decisions and policy outcomes that are neither inclusive nor equitable. Consequently, women face a lack of access to and control of resources, constraining their ability to improve their resilience and well-being. Decisions and policies thus both result from and perpetuate vulnerability and gender inequality.



These unjust systems are compounded by **POOR GOVERNANCE**, characterised by a lack of accountability and transparency towards citizens, inequitable decision-making, and a lack of capability, will and resourcing to deliver public services. Inequities are compounded by the lack of diversity across key governance institutions and civil society organisations, and a lack of support for civil society organisations to address diversity, capacity and capability issues and fulfil their critical role in governance oversight.

KŌTUI STRATEGIES



GENDER ACTION LEARNING SYSTEMS (GALS)

This methodology will be used to support women's empowerment through work with both women and men. This will lift the ability of women (and men) to articulate their issues and negotiate with those who control the resources they need to achieve their aims, in an organised and systematic manner.



- **SYSTEMS APPROACH:** Working at systems-level is complex but essential to contribute to change over time and across the multiple spaces, contexts and actors involved in resilience.
- **TRANSFORMATIVE APPROACH:** Kōtui aims to challenge and transform inequitable systems by building capacity to analyse and address underlying power structures and relationships.
- **WORKING COLLABORATIVELY WITH MULTIPLE STAKEHOLDERS:** Kōtui will invest in building relationships of trust across formal and informal sectors, and from grassroots to national levels, emphasising process and problem solving.
- **A FOCUS ON EVIDENCE, LEARNING AND INNOVATION** will underpin an evolving understanding of how change is happening and how Kōtui can best contribute; and will play a key part in the uptake of learning by policy and decision makers.
- **INCORPORATING INDIGENOUS CONCEPTS:** Kōtui will seek to understand and align with localised understandings of resilience and well-being, and to build on traditional knowledge toward innovation which is culturally relevant and sustainable.

KŌTUI GOALS

THE OVERALL GOAL OF KŌTUI:

WOMEN, INCLUDING THOSE ALSO IN OTHER GROUPS FACING MARGINALISATION, HAVE INCREASED RESILIENCE, WELL-BEING AND AGENCY IN THE FACE OF CLIMATE BREAKDOWN AND DISASTERS.

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Progress toward the goal will be achieved if we:

- 1) **Strengthen civil society organisations'** capability to convene diverse participants, build strong learning partnerships, develop a robust evidence base, and influence policy and practice;
- 2) **Transform restrictive gender and social, cultural and religious norms** to ensure diverse participation in governance forums;
- 3) **Transform formal and informal governance systems** to increase inclusiveness and social accountability; and
- 4) **Ensure that the laws, policies, plans and programmes governing the access and control that women have over a variety of resilience-critical resources recognise women's rights;**



THE FIVE PROJECTS INCLUDED IN THE KŌTUI PROGRAMME FOCUS ON THE GOVERNANCE OF RESOURCES THAT SUPPORT EQUITABLE RESILIENCE

- Solomon Islands Climate Finance and Empowerment Project
- Timor-Leste Climate Finance Project
- Tuvalu Climate Finance Project
- Timor-Leste Women and Land Project
- Fostering Lasting Opportunities in WaSH (FLOW) Project in Papua New Guinea

KŌTUI GOALS



We have chosen to represent our goal through reference to a traditional Pacific meeting house where people sit together to discuss community issues and make key decisions.

In our meeting house, **resilience** and **equity** are mutually supporting goals. Resilience is built on a foundation of **resources**, but access to resources is dependent on decision-making, or **governance**, within families, communities, and countries. Using those resources to build resilience requires **agency**: the ability to make free, independent choices and actions. The whole system is based in and dependent on social identity, encompassing both cultural identity and gender.

At the heart of Kōtui is a woven mat.

Across the Pacific and Timor-Leste, the woven mat is a symbol that brings to mind the discussion and negotiation that underpins community decision-making processes. **Inclusive, accountable governance** is where all people have the power to influence the decisions that impact them and is made up of different strands, all of which come together to support progress toward the goal of **equitable resilience**.



Photo: Arlene Bax/Oxfam



Photo: OxfamAUS

Solomon Islands Climate Finance & Empowerment Project

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Solomon Islands faces significant challenges across the areas of climate resilience, gender equity and inclusive governance. Recent research shows climate finance flows are increasing, but that does not necessarily mean that climate finance is adequate, or that finance is translating into concrete benefits on the ground.

Women in Solomon Islands face a number of systemic and deep-rooted barriers to full participation, including heavily male-dominated decision-making systems and practices, reinforced by gender stereotypes that portray women as less able than men to lead or make decisions. Key constraints that prevent women from gaining leadership positions include low levels of education, high burden of family care responsibility, high levels of violence, and underlying discriminatory social norms. As a result, women's voices and priorities are often absent or secondary in decision-making within the household, the community, in provincial government plans and in national policies.

WOMEN'S INCREASED ACCESS TO RESOURCES

This project will contribute to the Kōtui goal with two long-term outcomes. First, **women will have increased access to and control over household and community resources underpinning resilience**. At the community level, women's empowerment work will be structured around existing community savings groups in the home area of our partner West Are'are Rokotaniken Association (WARA), on Malaita, and then expand to further groups and provinces. A community-led empowerment process will lift the ability of women (and men) to articulate their issues and negotiate with those who control the resources they need to achieve their aims, in an organised and systematic manner.



IMPROVED GOVERNANCE

The second long-term outcome will ensure that **governance of climate finance and community resources is increasingly transparent, equitable and inclusive**. Our other partner, **Solomon Islands Climate Action Network (SICAN)** – will look closely at climate finance in Solomon Islands to understand how much, how and where climate finance flows to communities. SICAN will work to build collaborative relationships with key decision makers in government departments so that the analysis process meets their needs, enhancing the impact of findings.



FOCUS ON PARTNERS:

West ‘Are‘Are Rokotanikeni Association (WARA) is an indigenous, women-led organisation with deep experience of gender equity and women’s empowerment programming in rural Solomon Islands communities. Founded in Malaita in 1999, it promotes women’s economic empowerment and leadership through savings clubs which give women a space to come together, store their savings safely, and learn more about managing their finances. Its model builds on savings groups to promote income generation alongside confidence building and participation in leadership and decision making in rural communities. WARA now operates in four provinces, mostly in areas that have no access to road infrastructure or formal banking services, and its 1000+ members and 6000+ savers have together saved more than \$2 million SBD.



Solomon Islands Climate Action Network (SICAN) was created in May 2019 as a collective of diverse stakeholders urging climate change action. SICAN has a members from civil society organisations, international Non Government Organisations (NGOs), central and local government, and the private sector. SICAN’s members all contribute their wide range of expertise in informing Solomon Islanders about climate change.

COLLABORATION

Kōtui will bring WARA and SICAN together, each with their own perspectives and strengths. This collaboration between the grassroots work of WARA and the policy work of SICAN will underpin governance improvements at household, community, provincial and national levels.



BY THE END OF THE FIVE-YEAR KŌTUI PROGRAMME WE EXPECT TO SEE THE FOLLOWING IMPROVED GOVERNANCE OUTCOMES:

- Women’s voices are included in more policy processes (consultations, meetings, hearings) related to community-based climate change adaptation at national and community levels
- Climate adaptation policies and programmes increasingly consider the rights and roles of women and other groups facing marginalisation
- Climate finance decision-makers at the national level increasingly include evidence on impacts and needs of women and other groups facing marginalisation in decision-making
- Greater transparency on climate finance decision processes, allocations and impacts
- More climate finance allocated to addressing the needs and priorities of women and other groups facing marginalisation

SOLOMON ISLANDS SUMMARY OF KŌTUI INVESTMENT (IN NZD)

| NZ Aid Programme contribution | Oxfam contribution | Total investment over five years |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------------|
| \$2,711,000 | \$678,000 | \$3,388,000 |

Timor-Leste

Climate Finance Project

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Timor-Leste is highly vulnerable to climate-related disasters, and is considered the seventh most disaster-prone country in the world. Women and girls are disproportionately affected by the negative consequences of drought, landslides, and floods. Gender-based violence is prevalent across Timor-Leste and research shows that climate emergencies can lead to further increases in domestic violence.

CLIMATE FINANCE

Due to the growing impact of climate change, Timor-Leste is accessing significant amounts of climate finance, and this seems likely to increase. For climate finance to provide the best possible return and the most impact, it must get to where it is most needed and build the adaptive capacities of those most vulnerable and marginalised. Yet women and other vulnerable

groups in Timor-Leste have not yet been able to adequately, equitably and optimally access or benefit from climate finance. A key to achieving this is supporting capacity and coalitions looking at social accountability for climate finance and promoting the participation of women and marginalised groups in this space.

CLIMATE ADAPTATION POLICY

This project will contribute to the Kōtui goal with two long-term outcomes. **First, climate adaptation policy and implementation will increasingly include women’s rights and roles.** To address the disproportionate impact of climate breakdown on vulnerable and marginalised communities, our local partner Core Group Transparency (CGT) will: build its own understanding of the needs of women and other marginalised groups in relation to climate change adaptation, advocate for women to be included in climate finance forums, and support women to participate through networking and preparatory analysis and discussion.



Photo: Kate Bensen/ OxfamAUS

Zelia Cardoso, a candlenut producer and savings group member from Fatuloro, high in the hills above Suai in Timor-Leste. Through the help of an Oxfam partner, her village now produces 40 tonnes of candlenuts which they hand process and sell over the border to Indonesia.

FOCUS ON PARTNERS:



Core Group Transparency (CGT) is a civil society network made up of 13 local organisations (including a women’s organisation and a Disabled Persons’ Organisation), established in 2005 to oversee transparency and accountability of state budget execution and extractive industry activities in Timor-Leste. CGT sees itself as a bridge between rural communities, leaders and other entities who are responsible for transparency, a function it fulfils mainly through research, monitoring, evaluation, community discussions, and sharing information through the media.



Photo: Keith Parsons / OxfamAUS

BY THE END OF THE FIVE-YEAR KŌTUI PROGRAMME WE EXPECT TO SEE IMPROVED GOVERNANCE OUTCOMES AS FOLLOWS:

- Greater transparency on climate finance decision processes, allocations and impact
- Climate adaptation policies and programmes increasingly consider the rights and roles of women and other groups facing marginalisation.
- More climate finance is allocated to addressing the needs of women and other groups facing marginalisation
- Climate finance decision-makers at national level increasingly include evidence on impacts and needs of women and other groups facing marginalisation
- Climate finance decision-makers at national level value and invite analysis and advice from Civil Society Organisations
- Climate finance decision-makers increasingly include women and other groups facing marginalisation in consultations at national, municipal and community levels



Photo: Kate Bensen / OxfamAUS

CLIMATE FINANCE TRACKING

The second long-term outcome of this project is that more **climate finance will be allocated to initiatives that support women's resilience.**

There is currently little information available on climate finance in Timor-Leste. More comprehensive information, greater transparency and availability of information will lift accountability to citizens, offer opportunities for more effective and efficient use of scarce funds, and enable analysis on the extent to which climate finance is meeting the needs of women and other groups facing marginalisation. Kōtui will support the development of a climate finance tracking tool for the Timor-Leste context so that CGT can track climate finance from the international level to Timor-Leste, and from the national level to communities.

TIMOR-LESTE CLIMATE FINANCE SUMMARY OF KŌTUI INVESTMENT (IN NZD)

| NZ Aid Programme contribution | Oxfam contribution | Total investment over five years |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------------|
| \$975,000 | \$325,000 | \$1,300,000 |

Tuvalu

Climate Finance Project

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Due to Covid-related travel restrictions, detailed design of the Climate Finance Project for Tuvalu will be carried out in 2022, with the project commencing in 2023.

The islands of Tuvalu are extremely low-lying and sea level rise is a direct threat to lives, assets, livelihoods and ecosystems. Other climate-induced threats include rising atmospheric and surface ocean temperatures, prolonged droughts, coral bleaching, tropical cyclones, storm surges, and salt spray.

Tuvalu is primarily a patriarchal and patrilineal society, and men dominate both traditional and formal political power structures. Traditionally, the major social institutions have been family-based under the leadership of the *matai* (head of clan), and deep-seated social norms discourage women from participating in and contributing to public decision-making processes.



Photo: Jale Samuwai/Oxfam

CLIMATE FINANCE CONTEXT

Oxfam's recent (2019) research in Tuvalu on women's lived experience of climate change and access to climate finance in their communities found four key themes:

- 1) lack of meaningful community-based consultation for women;
- 2) preserving the peace and social harmony in communities is more important;
- 3) accessing financing information is a challenge;
- 4) women in remote communities feel left out from climate finance benefits.

FOCUS ON PARTNERS:



The Tuvalu Association of Non-Governmental Organisations (TANGO) is a non-profit member

organisation that aims to help and support healthy and sustainable development of NGOs in Tuvalu through the provision of training, services and information and through encouraging collaboration and communication between NGOs, government and international agencies. TANGO also provides awareness training and capacity building to mitigate the adverse impacts of climate change.

STRENGTHEN CIVIL SOCIETY CAPACITY

Oxfam will support TANGO and its member organisations to access training in gender equality and social inclusion, climate finance and influencing, monitoring and evaluation (MERL) and adaptive management, and on organisational development needs. This will equip these organisations with the skills and evidence to contribute to **making climate change adaptation and resilience policy settings more inclusive and equitable.**

WHAT IS MERL?

MERL Framework objectives are to:

- Guide data collection and analysis to inform Kōtui iterative delivery at project and whole-of-programme levels
- Support efficient and effective project reporting to Oxfam Aotearoa
- Enable reflective and outcomes-focused programme reporting to NZ Aid Programme and partners
- Support accountability to Kōtui funders, partners and participants
- Contribute to assessment of Kōtui delivery of public value.

CLIMATE RESILIENCE POLICY

Oxfam will work with TANGO to develop an advocacy strategy and establish relationships with key decision makers to ensure that **climate resilience policy and implementation increasingly recognises the rights & roles of women**, including those also in other groups facing marginalisation.



Photo: Jale Samuwai/Oxfam



Photo: Simon Bradshaw/Oxfam

CLIMATE FINANCE GOVERNANCE

Oxfam will work with TANGO to develop, test and apply context-appropriate tools and methodologies to track climate finance to fully understand how funding is currently being allocated and what impact it is having on women’s resilience. Development of an advocacy and influencing strategy will ensure **climate finance governance is increasingly transparent, equitable and inclusive.**

IMPROVE ACCESS TO CLIMATE FINANCE

Oxfam will facilitate training and accompaniment for TANGO members to consolidate their project management systems and skills, including proposal writing, financial management, and monitoring, evaluation and learning. This will improve organisations’ access to climate finance for initiatives that support women’s resilience.

TUVALU CLIMATE FINANCE PROJECT SUMMARY OF KŌTUI INVESTMENT (IN NZD)

| NZ Aid Programme contribution | Oxfam contribution | Total investment over three years |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------------|
| \$585,000 | \$146,000 | \$731,000 |

Timor-Leste

Women and Land Project

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Though gender equality is guaranteed in the constitution and there are high levels of women's political representation in the Timorese parliament, women's leadership within political parties remains low, and the composition of parliamentary committees is highly gendered. Additionally, women's mobility, security, advancement and voice are influenced by a range of highly patriarchal social norms, including customary norms, societal structures, and ideals associated with the Catholic church, colonial structures from the Portuguese and Indonesian eras, and more recently adopted but still highly patriarchal modern state and capitalist structures. Women also frequently have less control over the assets on which their livelihoods depend.

LAND RIGHTS

Access to land is central to life and resilience in Timor-Leste and across the region. Over 90% of the population of Timor-Leste is involved in some form of agricultural activity. With the vast majority of the population depending directly on customary land for agricultural livelihoods,



Photo: Kate Bensen/OxfamAUS



Photo: Ismenio Pereira/Oxfam

Maria Oematan is pictured in her garden in Oecusse, Timor-Leste. Oxfam's Kōtui program will help women like Maria learn more about and protect their land rights.

and limited social security systems, land is the most important social safety net for Timorese communities, and is central to identity, culture, social cohesion and resilience. Timor-Leste passed its first ever land law in 2017, and although the law itself is reasonably equitable, the process of land registration hasn't lived up to that standard.

STRONGER LAND RIGHTS LAWS

Timor-Leste is drafting over 18 subsidiary laws and policies on land. Our work will include: gendered analysis of the land sector, drafting evidence-based submissions on relevant land laws; and creating forums for dialogue between Civil Society Organisations, government stakeholders, and the public (specifically women).

INCREASED RECOGNITION OF RIGHTS

Lifting recognition of the importance of women's land rights among key target groups, including formal and informal leaders, will be achieved through training and reflection within our own organisations and allies; collaborative research, developing public campaign materials relating to

women’s land rights, and sharing positive stories about ways in which Timorese customs and customary leaders can protect women’s land rights.

STRENGTHENING WOMEN’S VOICE

This project will fund two partner organisations to drive work on the dissemination of land rights information at the community level, alongside broader women’s empowerment work.

IMPROVED CIVIL SOCIETY CAPACITY

This project will seek to build bridges between women’s rights and land rights organisations through collaborative research and learning opportunities. While there are Timorese CSOs that are strong on land rights and those that are strong on women’s rights, there aren’t currently many people, or organisations, who have a deep understanding of both. Resources, technical expertise, and institutional support, will lead to more sustainable and stronger Civil Society Organisations and networks.

FOCUS ON PARTNERS:



Rede ba Rai (RBR) is a long standing national level civil society network which advocates for just and sustainable land rights for all Timorese people. RBR members, working together with community representatives, made a compelling contribution to the development of the 2017 Land Law, a momentous win for land rights in Timor-Leste.



Juristas Advocasia is a legal aid and paralegal organisation that provides training for communities on legal issues, provides legal aid for communities facing complex land issues, and undertakes analysis and advocacy relating to land laws and policies. Juristas Advocasia was intimately involved in Rede ba Rai’s research on land registration which highlighted the negative impacts of the land registration process on women’s rights.



Francisco and Elisa Sila pictured at their home in Oecusse. They have participated in a Gender Action Learning System (GALS) training with Oxfam to learn to share responsibilities better.

BY THE END OF THE FIVE-YEAR KŌTUI PROGRAMME WE EXPECT TO SEE IMPROVED GOVERNANCE OUTCOMES AS FOLLOWS:

- More laws, policies and programmes that provide protections for women’s land rights
- Land registration processes that protect and uphold women’s land rights
- Women’s voices included in more policy processes relating to land at national and community levels
- Policy processes increasingly using a stronger evidence base on women’s land issues
- Strengthened collaboration between civil society and government on women’s land issues

TIMOR-LESTE WOMEN AND LAND SUMMARY OF KŌTUI INVESTMENT (IN NZD)

| NZ Aid Programme contribution | Oxfam contribution | Total investment over five years |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------------|
| \$1,275,000 | \$425,000 | \$1,700,000 |

Papua New Guinea

Fostering Lasting Opportunities in WaSH (FLOW)

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Water availability and supply are central to climate change adaptation and resilient communities. In Papua New Guinea (PNG), where droughts are frequent, expanding secure access to water, sanitation and hygiene (WaSH) facilities is a key climate change adaptation strategy, and essential to effective resilience for women and those in marginalised groups - especially with Covid-19 cases on the rise in PNG. Oxfam’s FLOW project commenced in 2019 and is expected to conclude in 2023.

The National WaSH Policy 2015–2030 for PNG aims to significantly accelerate access to water and sanitation infrastructure and services, and to promote long-term hygiene behaviour change. Providing PNG’s seven million people with improved water and sanitation services is a significant challenge for the government, especially for the roughly 85% of the population living in remote, rural communities. This has resulted in the bulk of work on water and sanitation infrastructure and hygiene education being delivered by NGOs and CSOs.

WOMEN AND WATER

Women and girls are disproportionately affected by limited access to water and sanitation facilities in PNG because women are responsible for managing water in the household and women and girls are most likely to be the primary collectors of water. Improved access to water can increase the time girls spend in school and reduce the burden on women and girls who often walk long distances along difficult paths to collect water.

FLOW PROJECT

The FLOW project, already under way, works with the relevant government authorities in the Henganofi district of Eastern Highlands Province,

to improve water and sanitation systems in 12 schools and their surrounding communities (particularly with women), and in eight health centres. It also lifts the accountability and gender inclusiveness of WaSH governance at community level by increasing women’s participation in decision-making, and builds government capacity to deliver WaSH services, which will enhance the sustainability of WaSH service delivery.



Photo: Belinda Bradley/Oxfam

FOCUS ON PARTNERS:



Touching the Untouchables (TTU)

Oxfam’s local partner, TTU, brings community health education programs to rural villages and communities. They emphasise hygiene and sanitation and provide a role model for the community and other organisations in promoting health. Here, a seamstress sews reusable sanitary pads for teenage girls to use so that they can attend school on days when they have their periods.



Photo: Belinda Bradley/Oxfam



Photo: Patrick Moran/Oxfam

Helen John lives in the mountainous Eastern Highlands Province of PNG. With no water infrastructure in her village, she and her family are forced to walk long distances to access water.

IMPROVED INFRASTRUCTURE

Improved and more reliable WaSH infrastructure will be achieved by installing safe, appropriate and functioning water supply systems and sanitation infrastructure in 12 schools and eight health centres. Improved hygiene practice and menstrual hygiene management will be achieved through delivery of a hygiene, sanitation, and menstrual hygiene packages to schools and health centres and hygiene and sanitation training to surrounding communities. This will result in **improved health, well-being and resilience among target populations, particularly women and children.**

INCREASED INVESTMENT

Oxfam is working with district authorities, Ward Councillors and communities to raise awareness of the National WaSH policy and the roles and responsibilities set out therein; and is convening stakeholders who are likely to have influence on the planning and budgeting processes of key institutions at district and provincial levels. Efforts focus on **increasing government investment in sustainable and inclusive WaSH services particularly in maintaining existing WaSH infrastructure in schools and health facilities.**

INCLUSIVE GOVERNANCE

Oxfam is working with civil society partner Touching the Untouchables (TTU) to raise awareness of women’s roles and rights among participants, and focus on shifting community perspectives around the role of women in decision-making. The GALS methodology supports community-led gender analysis, and identifies and trains champions of change within communities and government networks to transform **WaSH governance systems to be more inclusive, accountable and gender-responsive.**

BY THE END OF THE FIVE-YEAR KŌTUI PROGRAMME WE EXPECT TO SEE IMPROVED GOVERNANCE OUTCOMES AS FOLLOWS:

- Improved health, well-being and resilience among target populations, particularly women and children.
- Increased government investment in sustainable and inclusive WaSH services.
- WaSH governance systems are more inclusive, accountable and gender-responsive.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA FLOW PROJECT SUMMARY OF KŌTUI INVESTMENT (IN NZD)

| NZ Aid Programme contribution | OAo contribution | Total investment over two years |
|-------------------------------|------------------|---------------------------------|
| \$954,000 | \$238,000 | \$1,192,000 |

KŌTUI



Oxfam recognises that building equitable resilience is a long-term, holistic approach and requires explicit attention to the processes of social change that build capacities within communities, institutions and civil society, and transform inequitable systems. Systemic change needs to be enhanced continuously over time; in other words, it is not a fixed or end state, but an ongoing process of social change.

While progress is likely to be uneven, Oxfam believes that contributing to systemic change offers the maximum value for the investment, in terms of both scale and sustained impact. Kōtui will work at all levels, bringing together in-country partners with strengths in grassroots community work and in governance and policy-making, to deliver sustainable, transformative change and inter-generational impact.



oxfamnz | 0800 600 700 | oxfam.org.nz | oxfam@oxfam.org.nz



AUCKLAND PO BOX 68357, NEWTON, AUCKLAND 1145, NEW ZEALAND
WELLINGTON PO BOX 24165, MANNERS STREET, WELLINGTON, NEW ZEALAND

OXFAM
Aotearoa