



East Timor

Livelihood Development and Health

Location

East Timor (Timor Leste)

Partner Church

Protestant Church in Timor Leste

The Situation

Timor Leste is known as one of the poorest countries in Asia. 14% of the population in the urban areas of Dili and Baucau live below the poverty line, compared to 40% in other urban areas and 47% in rural areas. Much of the population suffers from food insecurity as only 30% of the land suitable for agriculture is being used. As a result the economy is not generating employment opportunities for the people including 11,000 new graduates each year. Health standards are also very poor compared to other Asian countries. For example 44% of children under five are underweight and there is also a rising incidence of Tuberculosis and AIDS more commonly amongst younger people.

The Project

This project provides assistance in the form of advice, training, equipment and loans to enable farmers to produce crops and rear animals. This increases food security and income for the families of the farmers. A micro credit program also exists to provide loans for the establishment of small businesses such as brick making, sewing, furniture making or roadside kiosks. Additionally UnitingWorld has been providing financial support to a health component of this project. This includes two health clinics and a village health program as well as a preventative health nurse to provide training programs for local staff and the community.

Achievements

Between 2007 and 2008 five farmer groups were established, benefiting over 150 people and many more in the extended community in wet land areas. A further 30 farmers were also involved in a new dry land livelihood program which supplied those in areas where crops cannot grow with livestock and equipment.

In addition to this approximately 120 family members shared in the benefits of the micro finance program and the Los Palos health clinic alone carried out approximately 30,000 consultations .

To ensure sustainability better quality seeds and training for farmers in natural fertilizers and insecticides have become part of the program.

The Future

In the near future as the project expands the facilities at each health clinic will be improved, local nurses will receive education and training and more preventative health programs will established.

As the agricultural component of the project expands many more farming and agriculture groups will be created. This will provide food and income for many more families in East Timor and transform the local community for life.

Get Involved

We invite you to get involved with the project by advocating in your local community, supporting our work financially, praying for the success of the project and receiving regular updates.

Contact UnitingWorld

Address: PO Box A2266
Sydney South NSW 1235
Phone: +61 2 8267 4265
Web: www.unitingworld.org.au

