



UnitingWorld to Expand Relief and Development Projects in West Timor

For Immediate Release
10 February 2010

Associate Director, Relief and Development Mr Rob Floyd today announced the expansion of UnitingWorld's Relief and Development projects in West Timor, Indonesia.

Two key projects focusing on economic empowerment through microfinance will continue to be supported and grow in partnership with the Evangelical Christian Church in Timor and its development agency, the Tanaoba Lais Manekat Foundation (TLM).

In a show of solidarity with our Church Partner in West Timor, UnitingWorld has launched the Loans for Freedom Appeal.

West Timor is located in Nusa Tenggara Timur (NTT), forming part of the economically poorest state in Indonesia. Eighty-four per cent of the population live in rural areas, 80 per cent are unemployed, and 17 per cent are unable to read or write.

Families and communities in many cases live on less than two dollars a day, putting education and basic healthcare out of reach.

Microfinance is the provision of small, low interest loans to families and community groups living in poverty to fund practical, income generating projects. Once the loan is repaid, the borrower keeps the profit which helps pay educational and medical fees, or to fund future projects. Examples of projects include cattle fattening, farming, and small business expansion.

Associate Director, Relief and Development Rob Floyd has been working with TLM since 2001, and is excited about the opportunities the new project will generate.

"TLM are currently doing excellent work to empower communities in West Timor through microfinance. These loans don't bind people down in debt, but empower them to generate an income and build their own future.

"I strongly believe in this project, and urge you to give generously to this appeal."

Donations to the Loans for Freedom appeal can be made:

Online www.unitingworld.org.au

Call 1800 998 122

Via mail PO Box A2266 Sydney South 1235

Gifts of \$2 and over are tax deductible.

For more information, please visit www.unitingworld.org.au

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UnitingWorld is available for further comment. Please contact Community Relationships Manager, Robert Luton on 02 8267 4223 or 0409 609 822 for media enquiries.