

## TOMAK- FARMING FOR PROSPERITY (TIMOR-LESTE)

Expressions of Interest

CARE International



### Organisation

Business Name:	CARE International
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### Organisation Profile/Areas of relevant expertise/Link to website

(Maximum 150 words)

CARE International (CI) is a global confederation with over 60 years' experience of working with poor communities. We place special focus on working with women and girls and promoting gender equality. CI has more than 20 years' experience working in Timor-Leste. For further information, please refer to CARE Australia's website: [www.care.org.au](http://www.care.org.au).

### Outcome 1

- Experience with rural entrepreneurs, subsistence households, and aspiring commercial farmers
- Community mobilisation and creating demand
- Training including Farmer Field and Business School approaches
- On-farm demonstrations
- Group mentoring and support (and establishment of groups if required)
- Promoting women's economic empowerment and transformative solutions to gender equality
- Community based analysis and resilience action planning

### Outcome 2

- Support to community-based groups such as farmers' groups and mothers' caring groups
- Crop diversification
- Behaviour change communication including nutrition information and education
- Social Analysis and Action approaches to social change at community level
- Well-regarded work on nutrition including the 2013 study on food habits referenced in the TOMAK design documentation
- Seed storage solutions

**Brief summary of relevant experience** (Maximum 500 words)

CI has extensive experience in inclusive market approaches including M4P. Since 2008, CARE has implemented 70+ market engagement initiatives in 25 countries, impacting over 3 million people.

CARE also has global expertise in food security and nutrition, in Timor-Leste including European Union funded HAN project, the Norwegian Embassy PROMISE project and the Australian Aid-funded Climate Change in a Secure Environment (MAKA'AS) project.

The **MAKA'AS** project (2012-2015) took a catchment approach to enhance the resilience and adaptive capacity of 4,057 people (2,125 women, 1,932 men) in 33 hamlets in Liquiça district. This was achieved through working with vulnerable communities in two watersheds to implement sustainable agriculture techniques (including terracing, mulching, intercropping, promoting climate-resilient seed varieties and diversification), climate resilient land management strategies (such as bioengineering, demonstration plots and check dams) supported by community analysis and resilience action planning, and to improve access to water. Project approaches included working with farmers groups and water management committees, as well as implementing farmer field schools and on-farm demonstration plots. A key finding from the MAKA'AS evaluation,<sup>1</sup> relevant to TOMAK, was that more than two-thirds of villagers see themselves better off overall in terms of income and food security (68.8%). The project also resulted in increased crop diversification (the average number of planted crops over one cycle increased from 5.66 to 6.61).

CARE also has significant experience implementing nutrition projects and this is well-recognised in the sector. In fact, CITL's 2013 study, *An Approach to the Food Habits of Three Communities in Timor-Leste*, was referenced in the TOMAK Investment Design. CARE works to promote nutrition through agricultural, health and educational oriented interventions. CITL's **Safe Motherhood Project (2013-current)** supports rural mother's groups to develop kitchen gardens and small scale aquaculture, and improves family nutrition through information, education and communication (IEC) and behaviour change communication (BCC) methodologies. CITL's **Lafaek** project (2002-current<sup>2</sup>) promotes improved nutrition through engaging articles in Lafaek Ba Komunitade a low literacy adult magazine which reaches half of all households in the country.

CARE has a focus on gender equality and all our work seeks to create transformative change. This is achieved through the application of CARE's well-established Women's Empowerment Framework which delivers evidence based interventions that are specifically designed to address the core underlying causes of inequality: women's agency, gender relations and external structures. In the MAKA'AS project this resulted in women making up more than 40% of all group members, women holding 50% of the leadership positions, and a combination of mixed and female only groups that allowed women to build their own capacities and skills as well as strengthening relations, women's voice and confidence to meaningfully participate in community-based adaptation (CBA) planning and management processes.

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<sup>1</sup> The MAKA'AS Evaluation is available on the CARE Australia website: [https://www.care.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/CBA-Portfolio-Evaluation\\_MAKAAS\\_Evaluation-Report\\_FINAL1.pdf](https://www.care.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/CBA-Portfolio-Evaluation_MAKAAS_Evaluation-Report_FINAL1.pdf) Briefs on the project are also available on the CARE Australia Timor-Leste page - <https://www.care.org.au/country/timor-leste/>

<sup>2</sup> CITL's Lafaek project has been active since 2002, with a variety of magazines reaching communities and schools throughout the country. The current phase has been funded since 2014 by NZAid.