



TOMAK- FARMING FOR PROSPERITY (TIMOR-LESTE)

Expressions of Interest

Organisation Details

Organisation Name: Mercy Corps

Organisation Type: (ie. NGO/ SME/ Company etc): International NGO

Business ABN/National Business Registration Number: registered as not for profit in United States and in Europe (Scotland); registered to operate as iNGO in Timor-Leste

Address: 45 SW Ankeny St., Portland, OR 97204, USA// Rua Traversa de Lecidere, Dili, Timor-Leste (www.mercycorps.org)

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Organisation Profile/Areas of relevant expertise/Link to website

Mercy Corps (www.mercycorps.org) is an international development organization working in over 40 countries to promote community-led and market-driven development. With a strategic focus on countries in transition, Mercy Corps takes a progressive approach, supporting communities, entrepreneurs, governments and the private sector from relief to long-term economic growth. Mercy Corps employs three main approaches throughout our market development programming. The first is a pro-poor development strategy that ensures at-risk and marginalized populations are able to pursue businesses opportunities and participate in market upgrading. The second is a sustainable market-driven approach that leverages existing market resources and partnerships with the private sector. Thirdly, Mercy Corps takes a multi-faceted approach to program intervention, simultaneously facilitating actors and institutions to change behaviors at many levels along the value chain. Mercy Corps leads in the application of market development principles in challenging environments, systematically incorporating M4P principles, resilience thinking and nutrition sensitive agriculture into programs.

Brief summary of relevant experience

Since establishing operations in Timor-Leste in 2007, Mercy Corps has earned a reputation for high quality and innovative programming. Mercy Corps' approach is to work with the still nascent market system and facilitate sustainable relationships among producers, retailers and consumers, while providing the necessary inputs and technical know-how that will enable such relations to flourish.

Existing programs target 10 Districts (out of a total of 13) in Timor-Leste, with a concentration in rural, least developed and 'off the grid' communities. Mercy Corps' early assessments in Timor-Leste identified the primary constraints of food and income security to be underdeveloped agricultural services, weak market linkages, and household vulnerability against shocks. In late 2009, Mercy Corps began implementing the 3.5 year (2009-2013) Sustainable Crop Production, Utilization and Resources Management (SECURE) Program funded by the European Commission. From its' original focus on **agricultural production and food security**, the program evolved to have a strengthened focus on **nutrition** and a number of pilot interventions in its' last year of implementation became fully funded stand-alone programs, most notably the current Norwegian Government supported Combatting Malnutrition and Poverty through **Aquaculture** or COMPAC-TL program now being implemented in six districts of Timor-Leste, in partnership with Hivos and WorldFish; and the current ILO supported Sustainable Agricultural Inputs and Information Services or SAINS which is working to build rural markets for agriculture inputs to the last mile. In addition, our early work under SECURE in **household nutrition and diversified production** have all been taken up adapted, improved upon and used in current programming. Throughout its' portfolio of agricultural development projects, Mercy Corps is gaining greater understanding of both nutrition and gender dynamics through in-depth barrier and gender analyses and is adapting approaches based on learning and evidence to date.

The Effective Seed Storage (ESS) program (funded by USAID/OFDA) is helping farmers with access to appropriate and improved seed storage facilities by supporting local manufacturers develop viable businesses producing and selling improved storage systems and diversified agricultural small inputs. The program targets ten districts and encompasses **key-hole and homestead gardening**.

Through the Managing Risks through Economic Development (MRED) program, funded by the Margaret A. Cargill Foundation (MACF), Mercy Corps is working in three districts to help communities better prepare for and withstand against the impacts of natural disasters such as flooding, landslides and drought through an innovative approach to integrating Disaster Risk Reduction with economic incentives. The program has adapted from its' earliest iterations to have a stronger focus on **nutrition sensitive diversified agriculture/horticulture** as a means to address the chronic food and nutrition insecurity in many rural areas.

Overall, our work in the agriculture sector in Timor-Leste aims to improve nutrition and food and income security for Timorese families, by *integrating nutrition approaches in market based agricultural development programming*. Mercy Corps in Timor-Leste is currently staffed by 63 Timorese nationals and 3 expatriates; three of which (2 expatriate/national) have been trained at Springfield in M4P approaches to development.

Note: This EOI is provided by the organisation to DFAT, with the understanding that it does not represent solicitation or constitute a request for proposal, nor is it a promise of any future work. It is solely for the organisation's details to be included in a public register on DFAT's website, of parties available in the overall market for possible involvement in any future delivery of Tomak in Timor Leste.