

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

Expressions of Interest – Supply Chain Partner

World Vision Timor-Leste



### **Organisation**

Business Name:	<b>World Vision Timor-Leste</b>
Business Type:	International Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO)
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### **Organisation Profile/Areas of Relevant Interest/Website Link (Maximum 150 Words)**

World Vision Timor-Leste (WVTL) began its first development project in 1996 in Aileu District. Today, WVTL runs three Area Development Programs from its offices in Aileu (central), Baucau (north) and Bobonaro (west) Districts, with a head office in Dili. Today, WVTL has 16 community development projects, including three economic development projects and four maternal child health and nutrition projects.

WVTL's financial capacity has grown steadily in recent years from US\$4.4 million in 2011 to US\$6.5million by 2015, making WVTL one of the largest NGOs operating in Timor-Leste. Being a 100% performance-based grant-funded office, WVTL has a proven track record of managing small and large-scale grants while maintaining transparency and accountability. Major institutional donors today include DFAT, the European Commission, New Zealand's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan.

**Website:** <http://www.wvi.org/timor-leste>

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

WVTL has proven capacity in economic development, food security and nutrition in rural communities in Timor-Leste.

**Economic Development:** World Vision (WV)'s Local Value Chain Development (LVCD) project model helps rural producers increase their incomes by working together in groups to better understand and connect to markets, thereby increasing their profitability and self-sufficiency.<sup>1</sup> WV supports producer groups to access savings and finance, extension and business services, as well as new and existing markets, by linking them to market actors and service providers. Given the model's effectiveness, by March 2015, WV had implemented LVCD in 22 countries, with strong results witnessed in Timor-Leste.

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<sup>1</sup> For more information on World Vision's LVCD project model, please visit: <http://lvcd.projectmodel.org/>

WVTL is currently working with 244 agricultural producer groups with 4,303 members in Timor-Leste. Following WVTL's interventions, the increase in average product price has been significant, ranging from 20% to 50%.<sup>2</sup> In addition to crop production, WVTL has set up group enterprises for food processing with 78% female membership (419 out of 534 total members are women). In Bacau, 22 producer groups make processed chips from cassava, sweet potato and banana. In Bobonaro, 13 producer groups make tempeh and tofu from soy beans. While in Aileu, 2 producer groups are involved in processing coffee powder from coffee beans.

Importantly, WVTL is linking 75 collective selling groups to supermarkets and other buyers in Dili. In January 2015, their combined sales were US\$30,755.64. With support from WVTL, producer groups also participate in village savings and loan groups to ensure farmers are able to save their earnings. As of April, 2015 WVTL has established 69 Savings and Loan Groups (1,133 members) who have saved a total of US\$163,945.65.

**Food Security & Nutrition:** WVTL has been promoting nutrition sensitive agricultural approaches, which achieve food security and nutrition, as well as agricultural productivity and strengthened market access and linkages. These approaches have been accompanied by behaviour change activities that improve community knowledge, attitudes and practices relating to food and nutrition.

WVTL has a strong track record in maternal and child health and nutrition in Timor-Leste. WVTL's nutrition projects work through Mothers' Clubs to keep infants and young children well-nourished and healthy during the first 1,000 days of life in line with the Scaling Up Nutrition Movement. Furthermore, WV supports care-givers to promote food security and improve nutrition through kitchen gardens. In 2014-2015, WVTL worked with 93 Mothers' Club across Aileu, Baucau and Bobonaro to educate 740 mothers to improve nutrition and reduce the incidence of nutrition-related conditions including anaemia. Through improved ante-natal and post-natal care WVTL also worked with Mothers' clubs to reduce the risk of infectious diseases, and maternal mortality and morbidity. In Liurai Village, Aileu, the "Halibur" mother's group, established and supported by WVTL, recently received a Presidential Nutrition Award ranking as a top village in the nation for raising the nutritional status of its residents.

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<sup>2</sup> Sinaga, Lerina. 2015. 'LVCD in Timor-Leste', presented on 18<sup>th</sup> February. Available at: <http://lvcd.projectmodel.org/>