



World Vision



Annual Report 2017

World Vision Timor-Leste

1 October 2016 – 30 September 2017



Justina can now better provide for her two-year-old daughter Deonisia after joining a savings group. Photo: Suzy Sainovski/World Vision

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This Annual Report covers activities and performance for our 2017 financial year: 1 October 2016 to 30 September 2017.

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Front cover photo: Nine-year-old Caleb's family learned about chicken and egg production to help improve their nutrition. Photo: Suzy Sainovski/World Vision



Children like Elisa, seven months old, are benefiting from improved nutrition in Aileu. Photo: Suzy Sainovski/World Vision

Foreword

I am pleased to present World Vision Timor-Leste's Annual Report for the 2017 financial year. This year gave us much to celebrate as we worked towards our vision of life in all its fullness for every child in Timor-Leste.

Our work with communities across four municipalities helped children and families access healthcare, clean water, sanitation and education; reduce gender-based violence; and improve livelihoods for vulnerable families. In 2017, World Vision Timor-Leste assisted 54,912 people, including 13,368 children.

One of those children was two-year-old Astria in Covalima municipality. Astria was acutely malnourished and dangerously thin. But with support from our staff, Astria received treatment at a local health post and I am happy to say that she has made a full recovery. You can read Astria's story on page 11 of this report.

Undernutrition remains a critical issue in Timor-Leste and we are committed to working with families and communities to help children like Astria survive and thrive. Learning from previous livelihoods interventions, this year we narrowed our focus on nutrition sensitive agriculture, which emphasises the role agriculture plays in improving nutrition.



Fabiano Valente Franz
Country Director

The year's highlights included starting our Better Food Better Health project in Aileu municipality and conducting project baseline surveys in three other municipalities. We also began work as an implementing partner of the *To'os ba Moris Di'ak* (TOMAK) Farming for Prosperity project. Both projects are supported by the Australian Government and will improve the health and nutrition of children and mothers through nutrition sensitive agriculture.

Another highlight for 2017 was the production of seven quality project evaluations, as we continued to strive for the highest standard of program implementation.

However, the year was not without its challenges, with new leadership, a staff restructure and a reduction in funding. Being able to perform with less staff and less funding was a major achievement, so I want to sincerely thank every single staff member for their dedication and for going the extra mile.

A big thank you also to our World Vision Pacific and Timor-Leste leaders and colleagues. We received incredible support and guidance from our fundraising offices in Australia and New Zealand and their respective governments.

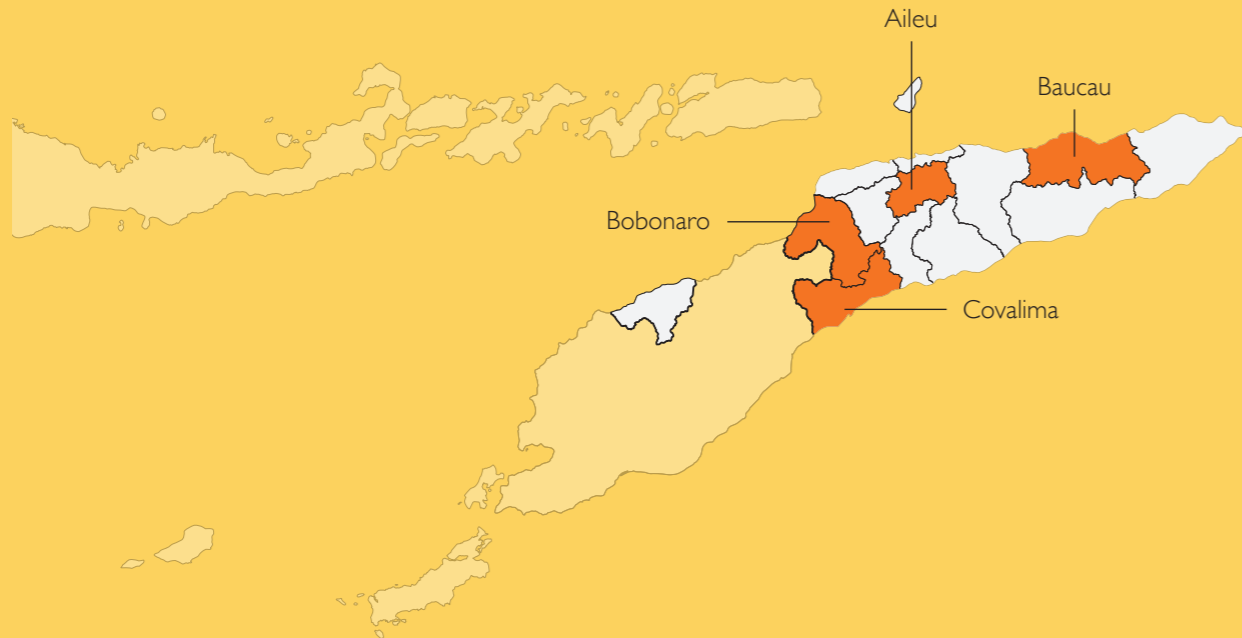
I am so grateful for the generous support of our donors, and am incredibly impressed by the dedication of our local partners in government and civil society. Thank you for working alongside us to improve the lives of children and families in Timor-Leste.

Finally, I would like to thank the communities we work with for trusting us and partnering with us to help Timorese children reach their full potential. We look forward to continuing our transformational work with you in the future.

Obrigadu wain,
Fabiano Valente Franz
Country Director
World Vision Timor-Leste

“In 2017, World Vision Timor-Leste assisted 54,912 people, including 13,368 children.”

About us



World Vision Timor-Leste is part of the World Vision International partnership – one of the world’s largest non-government humanitarian and development agencies. Timor-Leste is one of six countries under the sub-regional office of World Vision Pacific and Timor-Leste, which also includes Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Australia and New Zealand.

World Vision Timor-Leste began its first project in Aileu municipality in 1995. Shortly after the country’s independence referendum in 1999, World Vision opened its national office in Dili.

Today, we have three Area Programs implementing projects in four municipalities: Aileu, Baucau, Bobonaro and Covalima.

As at September 2017, we had 100 employees.

In this financial year, our donors included:

- Aktion Deutschland Hilft
- Australian Government
- Korea International Cooperation Agency
- New Zealand Aid Programme
- Start Network
- UNICEF
- World Food Programme

Globally through World Vision

Every 60 seconds a family gets water.

Together we’ve impacted the lives of over 200 million vulnerable children by tackling the root causes of poverty.

Over the last five years, 89 percent of the severely malnourished children we treated made a full recovery.

Our mission and strategy

Our mission is *Labarik saudavel ba komunidade forte* – Healthy children for strong communities.

We recognise that children’s health is holistic in nature and includes their physical, mental, intellectual and social wellbeing. We aim to empower Timorese children to transform their lives, in partnership with their families and communities.

Our four strategic objectives are:

1.  **Ensure children enjoy good health, safe water and improved sanitation**
2.  **Ensure children are educated for life**
3.  **Reduce gender-based violence**
4.  **Enhance community resilience and livelihoods**



2017 impact

Esperansa (left) learned how to improve her children's health and nutrition by attending parents club sessions run by community health volunteer; Deolinda (right).
Photo: Suzy Sainovski/World Vision



Improving health, water and sanitation



21,754 people, including 12,241 children, supported in 2017



20,519 people supported in maternal and child health and nutrition



1,235 people supported in water, sanitation and hygiene



161 household toilets built in 3 aldeia (sub-villages)



1 gravity-fed water system and 19 public taps constructed in 3 aldeia

In partnership with health centres, government departments and community leaders, we promoted vital health and nutrition behaviours, and increased access to clean water and better sanitation. We aimed to reduce deaths of children under five and mothers by improving nutrition, protecting from infection and disease, and ensuring access to essential health services. Our projects provided safe and reliable water supplies, and promoted hand-washing and the elimination of open defecation.

Our **Better Food Better Health project**, supported by the Australian Government through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP), helped to improve the health and nutrition of children and mothers by supporting households to grow, eat and sell more nutritious foods, and encouraging improved health-seeking behaviour in Aileu, Baucau, Bobonaro and Covalima municipalities.

Our **Bobonaro Mothers Support Group project**, supported by UNICEF, helped to improve mother and child health and nutrition knowledge and practice in Bobonaro municipality.

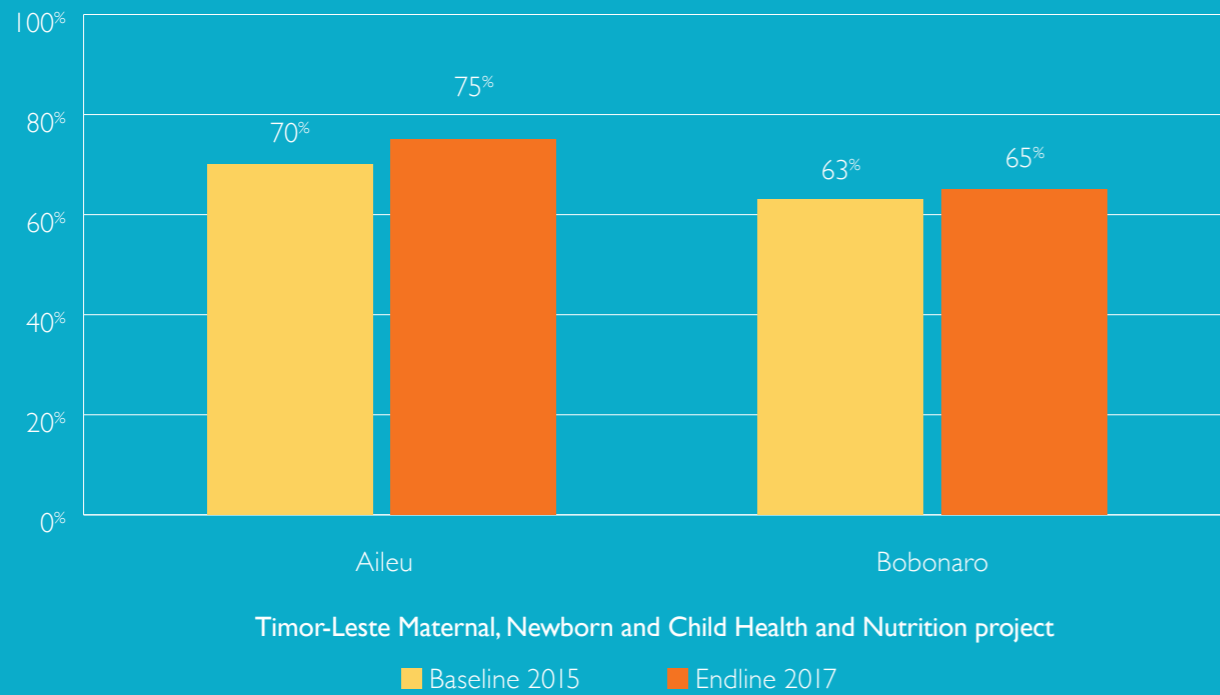
Our **Nutrition Education (Community Management of Acute Malnutrition) project**, supported by the World Food Programme and Korea International Cooperation Agency, helped to decrease acute malnutrition in Covalima municipality through increased community participation in the Mother and Child Health and Nutrition Targeted Supplementary Feeding Program, through community mobilisation and sensitisation of community leaders.

Our **Timor-Leste Maternal, Newborn and Child Health and Nutrition project**, supported by the Australian Government through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP), helped to improve the health and nutrition of pregnant women and children under two in Aileu and Bobonaro municipalities.

Our **To'os ba Moris Di'ak (TOMAK) Farming for Prosperity project**, supported by the Australian Government, helped women of reproductive age and children under two in Baucau municipality have better nutrition, through improved farming methods and health and nutrition practices.

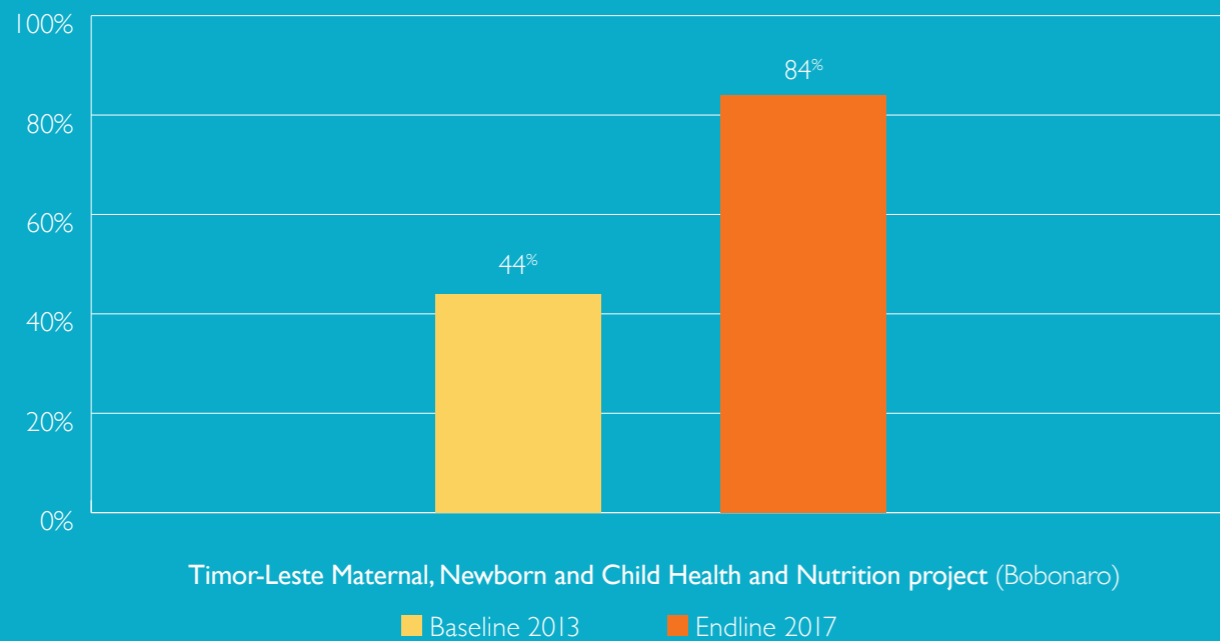
Our **Water for Future project**, supported by the New Zealand Aid Programme, helped to improve the health of children and families in Baucau municipality through increased access to clean water and sanitation facilities, and improved hygiene behaviour.

Percentage of children exclusively breastfed until six months old



*Percentage of children aged 0-59 months whose height-for-age is below minus two standard deviations from the median (or less than two standard deviations below the median) as determined by the World Health Organization Child Growth Standards.

Percentage of parents or caregivers with appropriate handwashing behaviour



*Handwashing after toilet use as a marker

World Vision's Baltazar da Costa Ximenes measures Astrya's arm to monitor her health. Photo: Jaime dos Reis/World Vision



Astrya now has energy to play

“The first time I met Astrya, she was so very thin and she had no desire to play,” said Baltazar da Costa Ximenes, World Vision Timor-Leste’s Nutrition Education Facilitator. **“She desperately needed help but her grandfather Bernardino refused World Vision’s assistance as he felt he could treat her with traditional medicine.”**

In June 2016, two-year-old Astrya was acutely malnourished. Timor-Leste has one of the highest rates of malnutrition in the world. In Covalima municipality, where Astrya lives, persistent food insecurity, hunger and harmful traditional beliefs contribute to high levels of malnutrition.

World Vision’s Nutrition Education (Community Management of Acute Malnutrition) Project helped

communities in Covalima to reduce malnutrition through mother support groups, cooking demonstrations, kitchen gardens, and regular home visits for nutrition counselling.

“Astrya was in a high-risk category,” said Dr Raul Schneider, World Vision’s Senior Health Advisor for the Pacific and Timor-Leste. **“Children of Astrya’s age with a mid-upper arm circumference measurement of less than 11.5 centimetres have been found to have a mortality rate up to nine times higher than healthy children.”**

When Baltazar informed the local health post of Astrya’s condition, they provided her with a month’s supply of the peanut-based food supplement Plumpy’Nut, which is used to treat acute malnutrition. Gradually Astrya’s health improved, and her mid-upper

arm circumference reached a healthy 13.6 centimetres.

“This program is very good, I was afraid of Astrya’s condition, but this program made Astrya’s health improve because she ate the food supplement and we got nutrition information from World Vision,” her other grandfather Renaldo said.

“Thanks to the dedication of the community health workers, growth monitoring on a weekly basis, the Plumpy’Nut supplement provided by the project through the World Food Programme and the Timor-Leste Government, and the nutrition, hygiene and sanitation education support provided to the caregivers, Astrya could make a full recovery,” Dr Schneider said. **“This project probably saved her life.”**



Hands up who loves school! These primary school students in Baucau sure do.
Photo: Jaime dos Reis/World Vision



Improving access to quality education



1,328 people,
including 514 children,
supported in 2017



32 teachers trained in pre-school curriculum

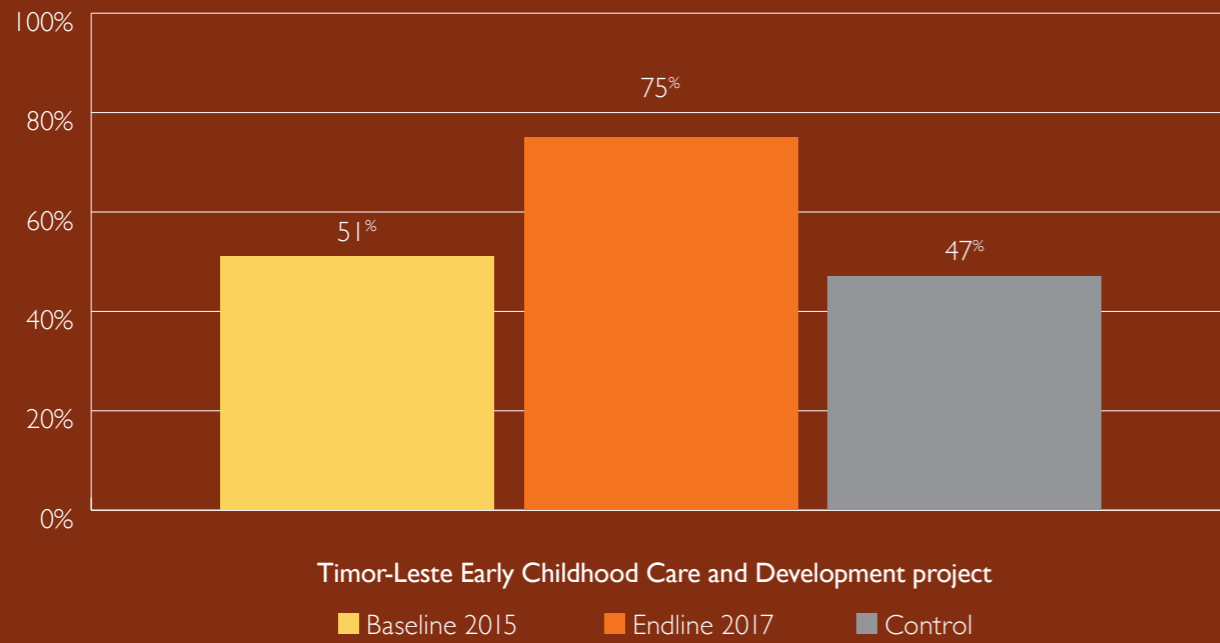


5 ECCD centres handed over for community management, ensuring project sustainability

We believe education from an early age is essential to promote a culture of learning within families. It sets the foundation for success in primary school and beyond. Our work helped to improve access to quality education for children under five and primary school children. We supported government and communities to develop culturally appropriate literacy training materials, and trained early childhood educators.

Our **Timor-Leste Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) project**, supported by the Australian Government through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP), helped to establish community and home-based Early Childhood Care and Development centres in Bobonaro municipality.

Percentage of children aged 5-6 years who demonstrate they are ready for school



Jakson, aged four, at an Early Childhood Care and Development centre in Bobonaro. Photo: Jaime dos Reis/World Vision



Janeta's classmates enjoy learning at the ECCD centre. Photo: Jaime dos Reis/World Vision



Janeta's joy in learning

Five-year-old Janeta's smile is radiant when she talks about going to pre-school. **"I come to school every day and learn counting, drawing and I play with my classmates,"** she said.

Janeta attends an Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) centre in Bobonaro municipality, established through World Vision's Early Childhood Care and Development Project.

Providing young children like Janeta with proper nutrition and opportunities to learn and play in a safe environment is crucial for their physical, emotional, intellectual and social development. However in Timor-Leste, only 15.5 percent of children aged 3-5 years are enrolled in pre-school.

At the ECCD centre, Janeta has the opportunity to develop

her literacy and maths skills as well as participate in dancing, drawing, painting, role playing and music. It's one of 14 centres established in communities and homes through the project.

The project also trained ECCD teachers in literacy, numeracy and arts activities and games for young children, as well as classroom management. Janeta's teacher, Francisca, was one of them.

"This project has benefited us enormously since it has improved our skills and knowledge," Francisca said. **"I feel confident we will continue to teach the children well."**

Through ECCD classes, young children become better prepared for primary school. A project evaluation found that 75 percent of ECCD-enrolled children had the language, problem solving and motor skills

required for school readiness, compared to 51 percent at the start of the project.

Primary school teacher, Antonio, has seen the difference firsthand. **"Children who were enrolled in ECCD classes are doing better than those who weren't, and their discipline is better,"** he said.

Nine-year-old Josefo, a former ECCD participant, agrees. **"We are learning material quickly at primary school because of what we learnt in pre-school,"** he said.

The project also helped parents develop good parenting practices at home. Parents received *pasta aprende* (learning pockets), containing books and other literacy and numeracy materials like alphabet cards. Both parents and children enjoyed using the *pasta aprende* to learn together at home.



Delia and her family found harmony at home after participating in our Reducing Gender-Based Violence project. Photo: Jaime dos Reis/World Vision



Reducing gender-based violence



1,685 people, including 876 children, supported in 2017



736 men and women trained on gender-based violence issues



60 community leaders trained on responding to gender-based violence

We work to address gender equity, increase female participation and leadership, and counteract violence against women. Alongside communities, local leaders and government officials, we helped to reduce gender-based violence by changing the attitudes and behaviours of men, women, boys and girls. Our Channels of Hope model explored power relationships that lead to gender discrimination, and provided training and activities for community members, chiefs, faith leaders and key service providers.

Our **Reducing Gender-Based Violence project**, supported by the Australian Government through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP), assisted communities in Aileu municipality to address gender-based violence by focusing on harmful attitudes and behaviours towards women and violence survivors.



Stronger linkages were made between government and communities, enabling survivors of gender-based violence to connect directly with established services and information.



As a Channels of Hope Action Team Leader, Marta raises awareness about gender-based violence in her community in Aileu. Photo: Suzy Sainovski/World Vision



Domingas with her two daughters, 17-year-old Delia (left) and 12-year-old Abrial. Photo: Jaime dos Reis/World Vision

Domingas finds harmony at home

For many people, home is a safe and peaceful place shared with loved ones. However in Timor-Leste, home isn't always a safe place for women. A 2016 survey by the Asia Foundation found that two thirds of women aged 15-49 in Timor-Leste had experienced physical and/or sexual violence from an intimate partner in their lifetime.

Domingas, her husband Marcelino, and two daughters, Delia and Abrial, didn't always enjoy peace in their home in Aileu municipality. Marcelino never helped Domingas look after their children or share other domestic tasks. He often gambled and was sometimes violent towards Domingas.

"I punched my wife and children when they tried to ask for money, so they were always

afraid to ask for it when they needed to," said Marcelino.

World Vision has helped families like Domingas' through the Reducing Gender-Based Violence project. The project works with local leaders, teachers, churches, organisations and service providers to address the gender norms that produce gender-based violence and child abuse, and strengthen links to community services for women and children who experience violence.

Domingas and Marcelino regularly participated in Channels of Hope training, a faith-based approach which draws on religious teachings that highlight non-violence and equality between women and men. In the training, the couple learned and shared ideas with others about how to build a happy and peaceful home.

Since then, Marcelino has undergone a tremendous change in his attitude as a husband and father. Now he tries to make his home a safe and peaceful place for his wife and children.

Domingas has also changed her behaviour towards her daughters. **"In the past, when my children played around, I showed anger toward them,"** she explained. **"However after the training, when they now fight each other, I counsel them to stop."**

Twelve-year-old Abrial is also happy to have harmony at home. **"I am happy with my parents and I love them. I always help my mother when I return from school by cleaning and cooking,"** she said.



Rui received seedlings, farming tools and training in Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration to help him increase his income. Photo: Suzy Sainovski/World Vision



Improving **community resilience and livelihoods**



35,708 people supported in 2017



10,823 people supported in livelihoods and saving



17,934 people supported in disaster management



6,951 people supported in disaster risk reduction



26.2 hectares reforested through replanting and FMNR



13,500 income-producing trees planted

Our work built economically sustainable and resilient households. We established village-based savings and loan schemes, and trained producers and farmers to improve their crops, overcome market barriers and increase their profits. We also helped communities adapt to climate change. Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR) is a land restoration technique which restores trees and shrubs from living stumps and roots in degraded forest areas. By carefully pruning new stems sprouting from tree stumps, farmers brought new life to seemingly barren land.

Our **Baucau Drought Anticipation project**, supported by the Start Network, delivered health and disaster risk reduction messaging, and distributed vegetable seeds and rice in Baucau municipality.

Our **Baucau Community Economic Development project**, supported by the Australian Government through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP), helped to increase the economic capacity of producers in poor communities in Baucau municipality, and enabled them to better provide for their children.

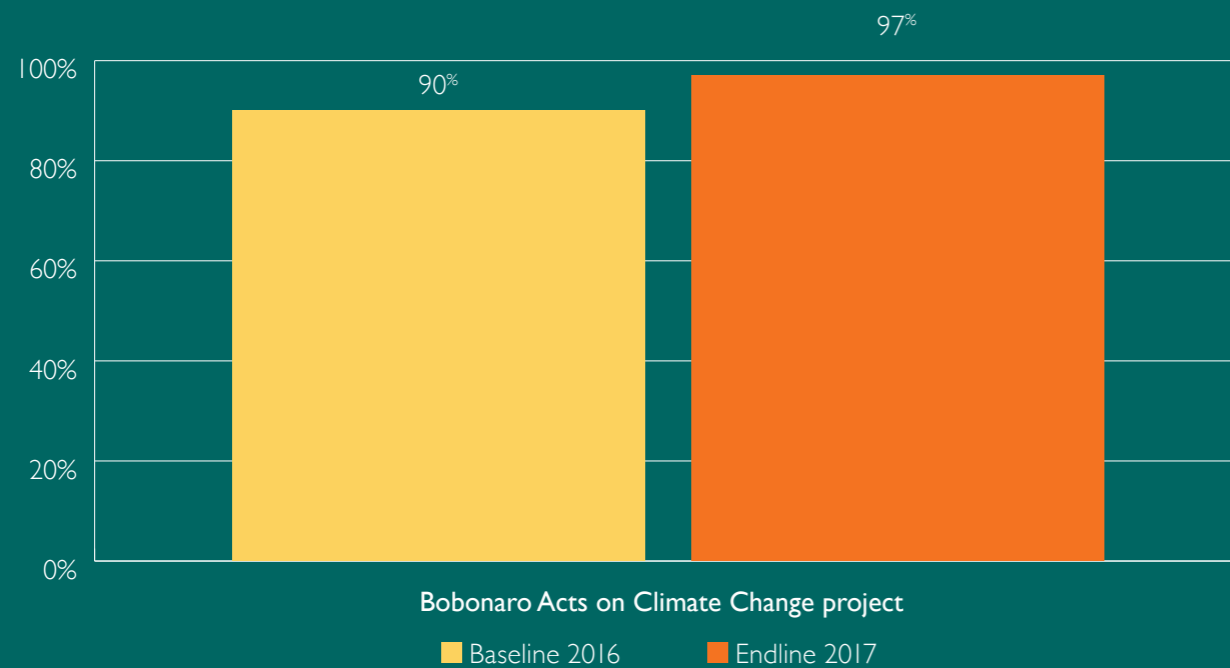
Our **Bobonaro Acts on Climate Change project**, supported by the Australian Government through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP), helped to improve household and community resilience to climate change in Bobonaro municipality.

Our **Bobonaro El Niño Response and Resilience project**, supported by Aktion Deutschland Hilft, helped to improve resilience to the impacts of disasters and shocks, including El Niño and La Niña, on food security, water management, nutrition and sustainable livelihoods in Bobonaro municipality.

Award-winning savings group in Baucau

In April 2017, a savings group from the Baucau Community Economic Development project won the 2017 Presidential Nutrition Award, receiving a US\$10,000 prize. Through this award, the President of Timor-Leste recognises communities that demonstrate leadership, mobilise community action, achieve sustainable positive change and share their stories of innovation and leadership with others.

Percentage of parents who can provide well for their children



*'Providing well' is defined using survey questions including areas such as income, ability to provide food and adequate dietary diversity where children have enough to eat, more than two sets of clothing, basic school supplies and basic healthcare/medicine.

Alberto grows vegetables to sell as part of his farmers group.
Photo: Jaime dos Reis/World Vision



Farmers are growing, selling and earning more

Life for farming families in rural Timor-Leste can be a struggle. Farmers often lack the agricultural and business knowhow to grow and sell enough produce to provide a good life for their families.

To address this challenge, World Vision's Baucau Community Economic Development project strengthened farmers' resilience and economic opportunities through training, collective production, market access and financial literacy.

Farmers group leader, Alberto, has increased his income since participating in the project. **"Our group was established in 2012, and has continued to function until now. We are cultivating tomatoes, lettuce, sweet potatoes, cauliflower and other vegetables,"** he said.

"The goal of growing vegetables or becoming farmers is to increase our family income and if we have excess income, it can be used to pay for our children to go to school," Alberto said.

The project established market collection centres where farmers groups like Alberto's sell their products. Alberto's group was introduced to a supermarket chain in Dili which now purchases their produce every Tuesday. By selling as a group, each member is now earning more and can better meet their families' needs.

This kind of success has been widespread. A project evaluation found a **50 percent increase in households earning more than US\$350 annually** since the project started. At the same time, households earning less than US\$249 decreased by a third.

"Through better understanding of market requirements, engaging in collective selling, and improving negotiation skills, farmers now receive better prices for their products," said Dr Adam Trau, World Vision's Resilience and Livelihoods Advisor for the Pacific and Timor-Leste.

These higher incomes mean parents are now able to provide a better life for their children.

Our local partners

This year, we strengthened relationships with our government partners at both the national and municipal level, including:

Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Environment

Ministry of Education

Ministry of Health

Ministry of Social Solidarity

Polícia Nacional de Timor-Leste (PNTL)

National Directorate for Climate Change

National Directorate for Water Services

National Health Institution

Secretary of State for Environment

Aileu Municipality Administrator

Baucau President of the Authority

Bobonaro President of the Authority

Covalima Municipality Administrator

We also worked in strong collaboration with our non-government partners, including:

Aileu Assemblia de Deus

Aileu Health Centre

Aileu Women's Development and Action

Alola Foundation

Asistencia Legal ba Feto no Labarik

Ba Futuru

CARE International

Casa Vida

Catholic Church

Catholic Relief Services

Church of Christ

Community leaders

Food Plant Solutions

Health posts

HIAM Health

Institute for Enterprise Development

Instituto Secular Maun Alin Kristo

Mane Ho Visaun Faun

Oxfam International

Plan International

Supermarkets and traders

Timor-Leste Disability Association

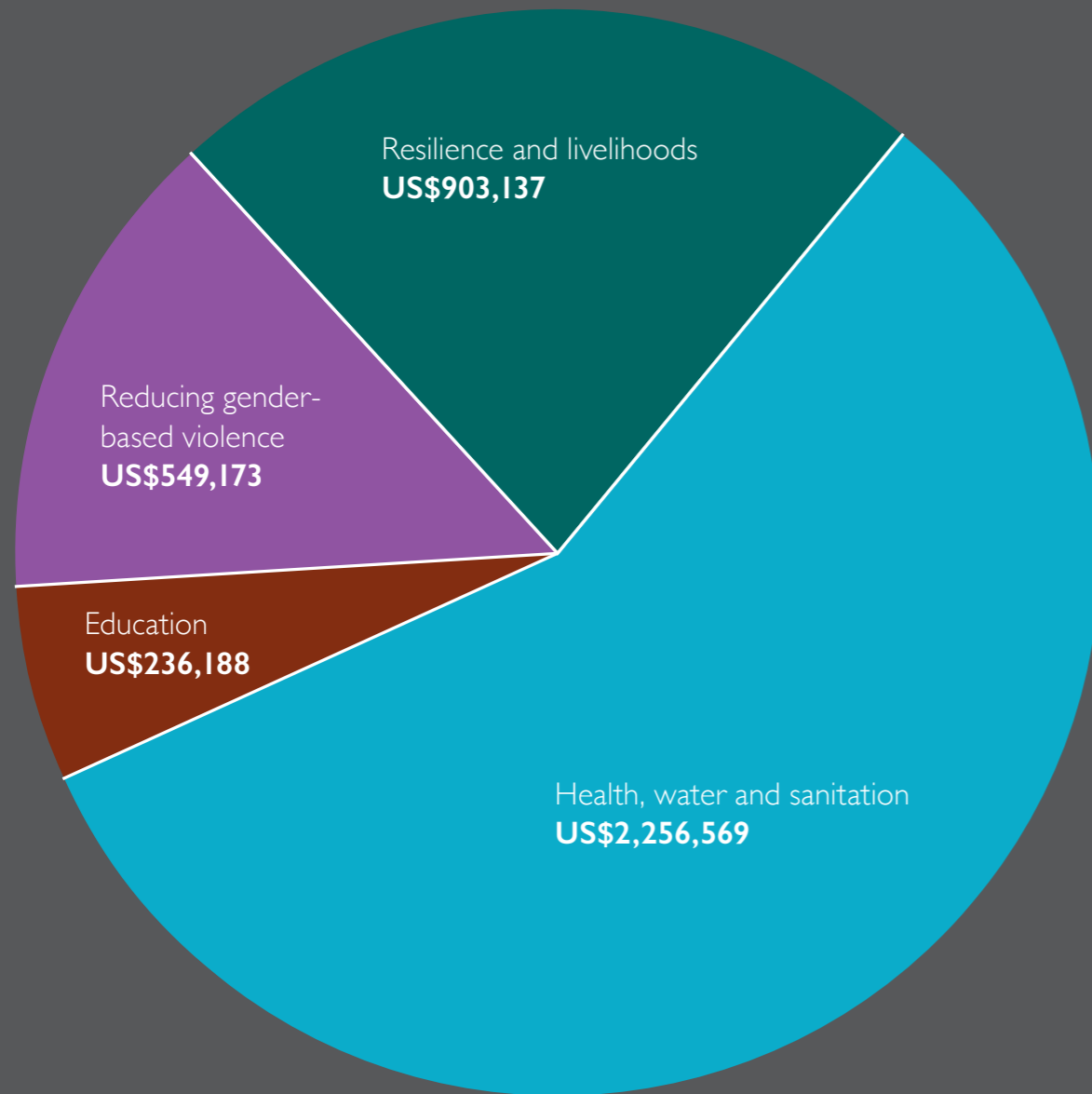


Community health volunteers, Deolinda (left) and Teresinha (right), run cooking demonstrations in parents clubs, with the help of World Vision's Diana da Conceicao Abrantes. Photo: Suzy Sainovski/World Vision

Expenditure overview

World Vision Timor-Leste's total expenditure in the 2017 financial year was **US\$3,945,067**.

Expenditure by sector



Fabiana, aged seven, (left) and Nelcia, aged 10, and their families are benefiting from improved nutrition in Aileu. Photo: Suzy Sainovski/World Vision



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