

One World Partnership

ISSUE 39



LIVELIHOODS & EMPOWERMENT IN TIMOR LESTE

Timor Leste is home to 1.2 million people and has a population concentrated in rural areas where people are heavily reliant on low productivity farming. As part of our work to help improve livelihoods for rural women, we have partnered with Hamahon Feto Timor (HAFOTI), a thriving non-government organisation that empowers more than 250 rural women to create local products for sale.

The HAFOTI secretariat are based in the capital Dili, and run a shop there. HAFOTI works with women in seven rural districts in the country to train them in making a wide variety of products, including virgin coconut oil, cassava chips, soy milk and handicrafts like tais - woven fabric sarongs.

Goods are sold at local kiosks and markets in the districts. Virgin coconut oil is also sent to Dili to be packaged and sold, as well as being made into a body scrub which is sold along with the oil in HAFOTI's Dili shop and in supermarkets. Ideally, the body scrub could also become an export to New Zealand.



HAFOTI members in Aileu district, Timor Leste, producing soy milk for sale by the organisation.

252

Rural Timorese women and their families benefiting from the programme

21 GROUPS

Operating in 7 districts around the country

12 ITEMS

Currently produced by HAFOTI for sale, including virgin coconut oil, soy milk and banana chips

Visit us online for more information about our ongoing work with rural women in Timor Leste.

WWW.CARITAS.ORG.NZ



VOLUNTEERING TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Alongside Caritas, Volunteer Service Abroad has also partnered with HAFOTI and sent a volunteer to Timor Leste to support the Caritas-HAFOTI programme.

Helen Reynolds, who worked with HAFOTI as a volunteer earlier this year to help improve marketing and sales of the organisation's products, says many people have asked her why HAFOTI has stayed so strong for so long. She thinks it is because they have a robust dispute resolution process which allows for a lot of discussion and also demands accountability.

Over the years HAFOTI has gone from strength to strength, creating high quality products presented in a professional way. This year has seen the creation of eight new member groups and the start of a five-year programme co-funded by Caritas and the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

HAFOTI members in Aileu district with soy milk products.



HAFOTI: A PERSONAL STORY OF EMPOWERMENT

Senora Rosa Beloi was left alone with eight children to support after her husband, an Indonesian supporter, left to return to Indonesia in 1999. Senora's income options were very limited, so she joined a HAFOTI group as one of the first members in Aileu district.

Through selling products with her HAFOTI group, Senora has earned enough money to support her family, build a house and set up her own kiosk.

She was also able to buy school supplies for her children, who are now grown up. One of her sons won a scholarship from the New Zealand Government to study at Massey University in Palmerston North.

Now a grandmother, Senora is still learning new skills through HAFOTI, such as how to make soy milk. She is also allowing HAFOTI to build a production centre on her family's land.



HAFOTI group member Senora Rosa Beloi in her kiosk in Aileu district.

Your commitment as a One World Partner enables us to continue our development work in Timor Leste.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

 **Caritas**
AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND

The Catholic Agency for Justice,
Peace & Development

Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand Catholic Centre, 22-30 Hill St, PO Box 12193, Wellington 6144

caritas@caritas.org.nz www.caritas.org.nz Tel: (+64 4) 496 1742 Fax: (+64 4) 499 2519

 facebook.com/caritasaotearoa  twitter.com/caritasNZ  youtube.com/caritasaotearoanz

Charities No: CC36055

ISSN: 2230-6617 (print)

2230-6625 (online)

Photos provided by Helen Reynolds - www.helenreynolds.co.nz



Top: HAFOTI members producing soy milk.

Middle: A HAFOTI member in her store which was set up with a microloan from the organisation.

Bottom: Children enjoying soy milk produced by a local HAFOTI group.

"I have to tell you how great the soy milk production went yesterday ... They were very happy when they got to \$14.50 and told us, 'great, now we can buy pencils and books for the school term that has just started!'"

- Helen Reynolds