

JWF Fund 2023 – Project Outline

Repairs to Clean Water Distribution Network for ex-Refugee Communities in West Timor (Indonesia)

- Local Partner: Centrum Inisiatif Rakyat Mandiri (CIRMA)
- Project site: Dusun IV Desa Tanah Merah Kecamatan Kupang Tengah, Kabupaten Kupang, Nusa Tenggara Timur, Indonesia
- Project expense: \$2,087.04 (JWF Fund: \$1,500, implementing organization: \$500, beneficiaries: \$87.04)
- Beneficiaries: 702 people (202 men, 211 women, 289 children)
- Background: Dusun IV is inhabited by 110 low-income households consisting of former refugees from Timor Leste. For a period 10 months, the clean water facility was not functioning due to damage to the submersible pump and several broken pipe connections. Since the breakdown of the water pump, almost 110 households had been without clean water. They had to walk 5 kilometers to fetch water in the valley. Residents had to compete with cattle that wanted to drink from the almost dry spring. Repairing the submersible pump and damage to the pipeline was the only solution.

【Before】



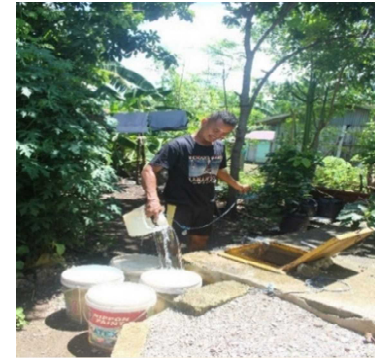
Empty buckets without a drop of water

【During】



Pipeline inspection

【After】



Water flowing into a household reservoir

- Details of the project:
 - Repairs to pipelines from the reservoir to households
 - Removal of the damaged submersible pump and installation of a new one
 - Pump testing and flow testing of household pipelines
 - Technical guidance for the hamlet's water management team

JWF Fund 2023 – Results of Follow-up Observations

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【Current situation】

- Date of follow-up visit was 27 September 2025. The facilities constructed and improved with the support of the JWF Fund are functioning very well. The submersible pump, distribution pipes, and water reservoir are all in good working condition. The system continues to deliver clean water efficiently to community households.
- The beneficiaries are using the water facilities properly and responsibly. The community has established a set of shared rules and agreements for water use, which were developed collectively through discussions within the local water users' group.
- The water facilities are managed independently by the community through the Community Water Management Board (*Badan Pengelola Lumbung Air Komunitas*). The active role of this board has been key in ensuring the sustainability and proper use of the facilities. The board organizes community work (*gotong royong*) schedules to clean and maintain the area surrounding the water facilities.
- From the beginning, the community collectively agreed to share operational costs of the clean water facilities. Each user household contributes a fixed monthly fee of IDR 30,000, which is used to cover electricity expenses and maintenance of the water distribution network. This community-based approach has proven effective in maintaining both the financial sustainability and smooth functioning of the facilities.

【Changes】

- Since the clean water facilities were repaired and became fully functional, there have been significant positive changes in the beneficiaries' hygiene behaviors. With reliable access to clean water, community members now practice better hygiene and sanitation in their daily lives.
- The most noticeable change is the reduction – in some cases, the elimination – of water-borne and hygiene-related diseases that were previously caused by poor environmental conditions and limited access to clean water.
- Beyond the original plan of ensuring access to clean household water, the community has also utilized the water for small-scale horticulture farming. This additional benefit has helped strengthen food security and improve livelihoods among ex-refugee households in the area.

【Other points】

- At the end of 2024, CIRMA successfully secured additional funding support from SELAVIP to implement a *Healthy Latrine Program* in several rural communities. Previous support from the JWF Fund for revitalizing clean water facilities has been highly meaningful and complementary to this new initiative, highlighting the synergy between clean water access and sanitation improvement as an integrated approach to community resilience and health.
- The main hindrances to continuing our activities at the grassroots level are limited funding, inadequate human resources, and technical capacity gaps.
- It is sincerely hoped that the JWF Fund 2026 will continue to prioritize community-led, locally appropriate water solutions, especially for rural areas facing climate challenges.



Children happily bathing and playing together



A small-scale female farmer connecting water from a drilled well to a water reservoir in the middle of a horticultural bed



A young man managing the water distribution schedule is checking the reservoir outlet

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Voices of the beneficiaries (Excerpts)



Mr. Petrus Hayon, 60 years old, town chief

Since completion of the clean water project, I have observed many positive changes in the hygiene behaviors of our community. Before the repairs, many families struggled to get clean water, which made it difficult for them to maintain good hygiene and sanitation. Now, with the improved water facilities, people have easy and regular access to clean water. This has encouraged them to adopt healthier habits, such as regular handwashing, keeping their houses and surroundings clean, and ensuring proper sanitation practices. Women and children are more aware of the importance of hygiene and are using water more responsibly. As a result, we have seen fewer cases of illness, and the community looks cleaner, healthier, and more organized. There have been no negative effects – only positive outcomes that have improved the overall health and well-being of the people. This project has truly made a big difference for our community.



Mr. Marcel Seran, 63 years old, chair of the facilities management committee

The committee has worked very well to ensure that both financial and human resources are available to keep the water facilities running smoothly. From the beginning, the community agreed that every household would contribute a small monthly fee. This contribution, collected transparently, is used to cover electricity costs and maintenance needs of the water system. The management committee reports on the use of funds openly during community meetings so that everyone understands how the money is used. This transparency helps build trust and keeps everyone committed to the system. In terms of human resources, the committee has appointed one technical officer to oversee daily operations, and community members take turns assisting with the water distribution and pump operations. This collective approach ensures that everyone takes part in maintaining the facilities and sustaining the benefits of the project. Overall, this system has made our community stronger, more responsible, and self-reliant in managing our clean water resources.



Interview with the committee leader



Ms. Maria Goreti, 42 years old, a user

We have seen many positive changes since the project was completed. With the clean water facilities working well, our daily lives have become much easier. We no longer need to walk long distances to fetch water, and we always have enough clean water for cooking, washing, bathing, and cleaning our homes. Our children are healthier now because they can practice good hygiene every day. We also have more time to focus on other activities, such as gardening and small-scale farming, which help improve our family's income and food supply. The environment around us is also cleaner because people now manage their wastewater better and keep their surroundings tidy. Most importantly, there is a stronger sense of togetherness in the community – we work together to take care of the facilities and help one another. Overall, the project has brought great improvements to our health, comfort, and well-being. We are deeply grateful to the Japan Water Forum Fund for supporting us in building a better and more sustainable future.