

Final Evaluation of Oxfam's Haforsa Program – Timor-Leste

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Savings for Change group producing palm sugar in Oecusse / Pedro Audilio Mendonça



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LIST OF ACRONYMS

A-FFOS	<i>Assosiasaun Futuru Foin Sae Sustentavel</i>
BIFANO	<i>Binibu Faef Nome</i>
CBMG	Community Based Monitoring Group
CCA	Climate Change Adaptation
CCC	<i>Centro Comunidade Covalima</i>
CLRDP	Community Led Rural Development Program
FE	Fundasaun Fini Esperansa
EoP	End of Project
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
GoTL	Government of Timor-Leste
GALS	Gender Action Learning System
Hadalan	<i>Hadalan Lian ba Governasaun Di'ak</i> (Strengthening Pathways for Voices in Good Governance)
Haforsa	<i>Haforsa Vida Moris Komunitade</i> (Strengthening Community Livelihoods)
Hakbi'it	HAKBIIT – Hakbiit Asaun Kolektivu Ba Igalidade no Inkluzuan iha Timor-Leste (EMPOWER – Empower Collective Action for Equality and Inclusion in Timor-Leste) - Oxfam's new Women's Economic Empowerment program
HFIAS	Household Food Insecurity Access Scale
IMPACT	Improving Marketing and Production through Agricultural Cooperatives in Timor-Leste (Phase 2)
KII	Key Informant Interviews
KSI	<i>Kdakalak Sulimutuk</i> Institute
MAF	Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries
MAHFP	Months of Adequate Household Food Provisioning
MANEO	<i>Masine Neo Oe-cusse</i>
MEL	Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning
MoF	Ministry of Finance
MTR	Mid-term review
PERMATIL	Permaculture Timor-Leste
PDIM	Integrated Municipal Development Planning
PNDS	National Village Development Process
RDTL	Republica Democratica de Timor-Leste
RTTL	Radio-Television Timor-Leste
SfC	Savings for Change (<i>Romansa</i>)
TOR	Terms of Reference
TVTL	Television Timor-Leste
WEE	Women's Economic Empowerment

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Oxfam's Haforsa Vida Moris Komunitade Program (Haforsa – Strengthening Community Livelihoods Program) was implemented in the municipality of Covalima and in the special economic zone of Oe-cusse from 2015-2020. This report documents the final evaluation of Haforsa and assesses the effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability of the program for Oxfam and its partners to gain an understanding of the program's impacts. The evaluation utilizes data collected in an endline survey to measure program results against baseline and midline data, as well as qualitative information collected from beneficiaries, partners and other development stakeholders.

The Oxfam MEL team has identified 14,639 direct beneficiaries (49.7% women, 50.3% men, 0.5% people with disabilities) of the Haforsa program, of which 266 were surveyed directly. Data from the endline survey is compared to the results from a baseline and a midline survey where appropriate, and other progress from ongoing monitoring is measured against indicators. Key findings from the evaluation include the following:

- Haforsa met or exceeded most of its goals in food security, with the incidence of food secure households among surveyed participants increasing steadily throughout the program.
- Haforsa fell short of its target for increasing household income, with a 23.7% decrease in surveyed beneficiary income between the baseline and endline surveys, due to both programmatic and broader contextual factors. Climate and agricultural shocks and the COVID-19 restrictions of 2020 affected Haforsa's activities and some gains achieved at the time of the midterm were lost in later years. Notable exceptions included increases in income from individual and group crop sales, and income from small business activities, which showed an increase in the later years of the program.
- Among Focus Group Discussion (FGD) participants, Saving for Change (SfC) also known as 'Romansa' groups represent the most significant impact of the Haforsa program. SfC groups were successful at developing resilience and lay the groundwork for additional programming to promote entrepreneurial investment.
- The lack of substantial links beyond beneficiaries' traditional markets indicates that marketing initiatives undertaken during Haforsa did not have the intended impact.
- Both partners and beneficiaries show varying levels of fatigue for some activities, particularly around agriculture. One effect of this was that many partners had difficulty articulating the successes of the program.
- Haforsa's influencing work was mostly limited to the local level.

Additional findings from Haforsa can be found in *Lessons from the Field*, which was drafted separately by the authors prior to this evaluation as a way to showcase the most relevant lessons from Haforsa to Oxfam's development actors and partners in Timor-Leste.

Recommendations herein were formulated with the Oxfam team to proactively support learning to guide Oxfam's Hadalan project, Women's Economic Empowerment (WEE) project Hakbi'it and the AHP COVID Recovery Project. The authors recommend that Oxfam in Timor-Leste:

1. Focus influencing work in future livelihood programming toward the expansion of the School Feeding Program, improvements in marketplace safety, better market infrastructure, and policies to promote local produce over imports.

2. Reassess which activities included in future programming could help to re-energize partners and result in more vibrant programming, particularly in agriculture. Annual reflection workshops offer an opportunity to do this.
3. Reduce reliance on recollection-based data and increase ongoing and timely documentation of program results, especially for agricultural and financial parameters.
4. Utilize readily available technology such as tablets and cloud-based data storage to collect and store MEL data from the start of new programs.
5. Take advantage of Oxfam's relations with local partners and communities, especially in Oe-cusse, to amplify influencing impacts in upcoming programming.
6. Capitalize on the success of SfC groups by continuing to work with them, with a focus on maximizing economic benefits through entrepreneurship and livelihood investment activities.
7. Provide coaching and mentoring for Oxfam and partner staff to articulate their successes through storytelling and qualitative MEL approaches.

INTRODUCTION

Oxfam's Haforsa Vida Moris Komunitade Program (Haforsa) was implemented in the municipality of Covalima and in the special economic zone of Oe-cusse from 2015-2020. This evaluation measures program results against baseline and midline data based on a survey of program beneficiaries, partners and other development stakeholders. The field component of the evaluation including FGDs and key informant interviews took place in October 2020. Some qualitative data collected during the preparation of the 'Lessons from the Field' document is also utilized in the evaluation. The data collection for that study, consisting mostly of Key Informant Interviews (KII), took place in July 2020.

Context

The food and income security of Timor-Leste's population has been subject to several contextual factors during the Haforsa implementation period, particularly since 2018. During that time, three different national coalition governments have held power, an epidemic of African Swine Fever has decimated the country's pig herd, agricultural shocks such as widespread Fall Armyworm infestation have affected crop production, and climatic factors such as unpredictable rainfall have further exasperated the situation. The sudden COVID-19 crisis in 2020 was an additional shock to a population already strained by other issues. Timor-Leste's economic growth is forecast to decline by a significant 6.3% in 2020, characterised by reduced investment and spending, including in rural areas, as well as higher unemployment. Data from the *2020 Rapid Food Security Assessment* documented that 40% of households from that survey were already undertaking coping strategies to deal with food insecurity shortly after the harvest of staple crops, and 81% reported that at least one food or income source had been affected by agricultural shocks or COVID-19 restrictions.

Haforsa's key activities of increasing production, reducing losses, and helping farmers to market their excess produce were also affected by these contextual factors. Gains made in the first half of the program cycle were, in many instances, lost in the later years. Despite this, significant improvements in food security were achieved and resilience strategies, particularly through savings and loan groups, helped vulnerable households to cope with the shocks and stressors of this difficult time.

The Haforsa program

Haforsa is an Australian aid initiative implemented by Oxfam in Timor-Leste on behalf of the Australian Government. The program was funded through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP) with a total budget of AUD 7,062,933. Haforsa reached 14,639 direct beneficiaries, exceeding its original target, and worked with twelve implementing local partner organisations as outlined in Table 1. An additional 4,162 beneficiaries also received support under the program’s COVID-19 response activities from April-July 2020.

Table 1. Local Oxfam partners and working area(s).

Partner	Working area(s)
Centro Comunidade Covalima (CCC)	Covalima
Assosiasaun Futuru Foin Sae Sustentavel (AFFOS)	Oe-cusse
Binibu Faef Nome (BIFANO)	Oe-cusse
Centru Comunidade Covalima (CCC)	Covalima
Kadalak Sulimutu Institute (KSI)	Covalima
Masine Neo Oe-cusse (MANEO)	Oe-cusse
Assoc. Leno ba Antoni Oe-cusse (ALEBAO) ^A	Oe-cusse
Forum Peduli Wanita Oe-cusse (FPWO) ^B	Oe-cusse
Fini Esperansa ^C	Covalima
Mata Dalan Institute (MDI)	Covalima
Permakultura Timor-Leste	Covalima, Oe-cusse
Ra'es Hadomi Timor Oan (RHTO)	Covalima, Oe-cusse

A. To November 2016; B. To June 2017; C. To June 2019

The Haforsa program had the following objectives:

1. Women and men in rural communities have improved income and food security
2. Vulnerable rural communities have improved resilience to disasters and shocks (fast and slow onset)
3. Vulnerable rural women and men are able to influence local and national decision making processes that impact on their livelihoods and food security
4. Increased capacity of partners, through support from Oxfam.

Key activities of the Haforsa project included:

- increasing farm production and increasing income through sales of crops and processed products
- supporting people to undertake alternative livelihood activities
- increasing the resilience of communities to disasters and shocks
- ensuring long term support through a favourable enabling environment
- effectively managing partnerships with local NGOs in line with Oxfam in Timor-Leste’s partnership principles

METHODOLOGY

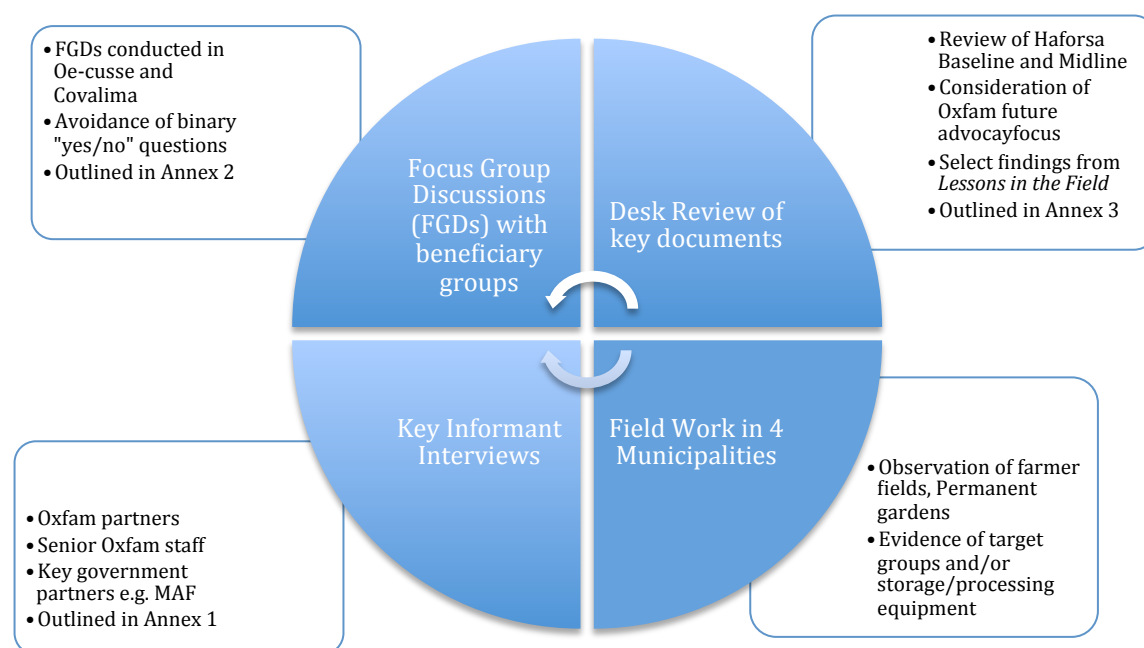
The evaluation methodology was developed in consultation with the Oxfam program management and MEL team starting in September 2020 with the field survey concluding by October 2020. Delays in this evaluation due to COVID-19 restrictions enabled drafting of a *Lessons from the Field* report by

the same authors in July-August 2020, in order to showcase in a timely manner, the most relevant lessons from Haforsa for Oxfam's development and local partners. While *Lessons from the Field* has not influenced the evaluation methodology, including choice of questions posed for FGDs and KIIs, some *Lessons from the Field* findings may be corroborated through this evaluation.

The evaluation team designed the methodology in-line with the following **principles**:

1. A "**strengths' based**" approach that focuses on identifying examples of "best practice" and "what the benefits of Haforsa have been";
2. **Storytelling** as a means to ascertain accurate information on how Oxfam and partner staff and beneficiaries perceive the project;
3. Activities that place the beneficiaries in an **equalizing position** (in relation to Oxfam and partner staff) to explain their experiences of Haforsa;
4. Active **avoidance of constraining binary e.g. "yes/no" questions** that might pressure respondents to try and guess what they perceive are the answers the evaluators are looking for;
5. Conscious collection of supplementary and clarifying information in **informal spaces** (e.g. during waiting periods and lunch times); and,
6. **Flexibility** to find opportunities for information gathering and to respond to challenges, difficult conditions, and limitations.

The methodology used comprised the following 4 qualitative elements to gather information, in addition to the quantitative survey explained below:



A questionnaire for FGDs was developed for qualitative data collection. This was substantially informed by the recommendations from the midline survey report and identification of areas where further information was required based on the document review. The questionnaire is included in Annex 4. As a diverse range of stakeholders took part in the project, individual interviews were conducted using a purposive methodology.

The **quantitative survey** questionnaire was developed for direct comparison with previous surveys and evaluations; taking into account the recommendations from the midline final report and refinement of the translations for some questions.

The Oxfam MEL team has documented 14,639 direct beneficiaries (49.7% women, 50.3% men, 0.5% people with a disability) of the Haforsa program. **This exceeds the original target number of direct beneficiaries by 19%**. Based on this, a sample size of 265¹ respondents was agreed upon with the MEL team to achieve 1) a 5% margin of error 2) a 95% confidence level and 3) an 80% response distribution. These parameters are in line with those used in the baseline and midline surveys. Respondents were distributed proportionally among the Haforsa municipalities (Table 2) and partners. After the fieldwork was completed on 19 September, data was analyzed and initial findings were tested with Oxfam senior staff and the Haforsa team through a presentation of preliminary findings on the 28th of October 2020.

In response to the COVID-19 crisis in 2020, Haforsa funds were also allocated to Oxfam’s and partner’s COVID-19 response work. This included activities such as dissemination of health messages, distribution of hygiene supplies, and Oxfam acting as a lead NGO for the 2020 Rapid Food Security Assessment and 2020 Market Resilience Assessment in partnership with other organizations and the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. The MEL team documented **4,162 additional beneficiaries** that received assistance from these activities. These beneficiaries did not meet the criteria for inclusion in the baseline survey (household participation in a Haforsa farmer’s group since or prior to January 2019) and final numbers only became available after data collection was complete.

Limitations and Evaluation Team Responses

LIMITATION	EVALUATION TEAM RESPONSE
Cumulative data on some indicators was not available, and some data was inconsistent. Revisions to indicators had not been updated in some records. A similar situation was noted in the midterm evaluation.	Where data was unavailable, findings from qualitative data collection were included when possible, and in some cases, related information could be derived from quantitative survey questions.
Yield, losses, and income were based on respondent’s recollection of the previous 12 months. Crop quantities and land area were based on estimation, variable units, and respondent’s recollection. This led to a high incidence of impossible figures, especially for yield.	All efforts were made during the design of the baseline and midline to account for this, but both noted that these parameters should be based on real-time monitoring. Data cleaning in the endline revealed many impossible and implausible yields. Income and crop loss figures were left as reported, but implausible yield figures (many in the tens of thousands of kg/ha) were excluded. This is noted on relevant tables.
All partners in Suai had difficulty supplying the required number of respondents. Partners had been informed of the survey requirements one month in advance, and were responsible for selecting the <i>aldeia</i> to visit.	The survey team was able to locate additional beneficiaries in other <i>aldeia</i> , but this resulted in less area coverage than planned. For some partners, most of the survey respondents came from only one community.

¹ Note that this includes a margin for error over the minimum 242 respondents needed to meet the criteria. This was done to ensure that statistical validity was achieved.

COVID-19 travel restrictions prevented the lead consultant from travelling to Timor-Leste.	Data collection for both the qualitative and quantitative survey was led by Dili-based Josh Fernandez in close coordination with the overseas-based team members. Extensive use of video conferencing during data collection and the presentation of preliminary results was an effective mitigation strategy.
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Profile of Respondents for the Endline Survey

A total of 266 respondents participated in the endline survey. Distribution of respondents among both municipalities and partners was proportional to the total number of beneficiaries. The survey consisted of 63% female and 37% male respondents, and among these 9 identified as being people with disabilities. Table 2 shows the gender-disaggregated number of respondents and average household size by municipality.

Table 2. Gender disaggregated distribution of respondents by municipality.

Municipality gender	n=	% of Total	Average HH size
Covalima	100	38%	5.7
female	62	23%	
male	38	14%	
Oe-cusse	166	62%	5.4
female	105	39%	
male	61	23%	
Total	266	100%	

The level of education of respondents is outlined in Table 3, and disaggregated by municipality in Figure 1. It is notable that the percentage of respondents reporting 'None' for education has increased from 26% in the baseline to 38% in the endline. Respondents reporting education levels of 'Primary school' and 'Senior high school' also decreased (by 4% and 9% respectively). The only level of education to show an increase between the baseline and the endline was 'Junior high school' with a 2% increase. This could indicate that the program improved its targeting of vulnerable households in response to the midterm review.

Table 3. Level of education of respondents.

Educational level	n=	percent
None	100	38%
Primary school	78	29%
Senior high school	42	16%
Junior high school	36	14%
Undergraduate degree	6	2%
None, but knows how to read and write	2	1%
Higher	2	1%

Figure 1 shows the level of education of the heads of surveyed households in the two program areas. Notwithstanding the higher number of beneficiaries in Oecusse, the education levels found there were substantially lower than in Covalima.

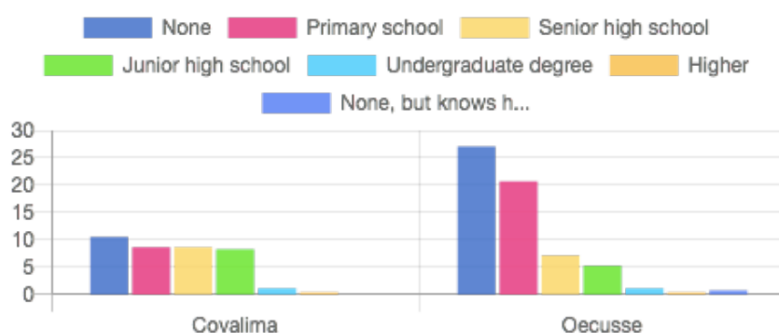


Figure 1. Education level, head of HH, by municipality.

Table 4 shows the distribution of respondents across the aldeias visited in the survey. The proscribed number of survey respondents could not be located in some aldeias in Covalima, and numbers had to be made up in other aldeias (see limitations).

Table 4. Respondent numbers by municipality and aldeia.

Municip.	Aldeia	n=	Municip.	Aldeia	n=
Covalima		100	Oe-cusse		166
	Beilaku	10		Cabana	5
	Bitis	11		Fatubija'e	38
	Fatu Loro	10		Haoufe	1
	Halimea	14		Hautefu	24
	Holba	2		KiuPInaf	12
	Lour	21		Lalisuk	1
	Manulor	6		Makela	2
	Tilis/salasa	19		Manuempena	1
	Tula - Eduk	7		Maunaben	33
	Cassabauc	0		Nemun	1
				Nianapu	9
				Noeninen	19
				Oelnanoe	2
				Quanobe	17
				Sanane	1

All but 4 respondents in the survey had grown at least one Haforsa target crop in the previous 12 months, and the average respondent grew 3.5 Haforsa target crops. Among households growing each crop, those also selling the crop ranged from 23% for cassava, *Noi Mutin* maize, and leafy vegetables, to 1% for Avocados, Coconut, and Garlic. Table 5 outlines the data on respondents planting and selling each crop.

Table 5. Respondents by Haforsa target crop (n=266).

Crop	Planting n=	Planting %	Selling n=	Selling %
Cassava	183	69%	60	23%
Noi Mutin maize	173	65%	61	23%
Traditional maize	137	52%	33	12%
Unirrigated rice	135	51%	10	4%
Sweet Potato	94	35%	36	14%
Shallots	89	33%	57	21%
Other leafy veg.	82	31%	60	23%
Banana	77	29%	37	14%
Other veg.	77	29%	48	18%
Taro	51	19%	14	5%
Sele maize	34	13%	10	4%
Irrigated rice	30	11%	13	5%
Pineapple	18	7%	10	4%
High value veg.	14	5%	11	4%
Soybeans	13	5%	10	4%
Avocado/fruit	8	3%	3	1%
Coconut	7	3%	3	1%
Garlic	3	1%	2	1%

Issues around the program's approach to targeting of vulnerable households were raised in both the baseline report and midterm review. At the time of the endline, the percentage of respondents meeting several of the vulnerability criteria increased, suggesting that the program improved its approach in later years. Also relevant are the level of education noted above, and housing conditions in Table 7.

Table 6. Incidence of vulnerability criteria among surveyed households.

Characteristic	Baseline	Midline	Endline
Households that do not have a permanent house	4.9%	12.2%	7.9%
Households with more than 5 children	1.4%	1.4%	4.5%
Widows or female head of household	10.1%	13.2%	11.3%
Households with people with a disability	13.5%	17.2%	7.1%
Households having less than 2 meals/day	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Households without certified land	87.0%	45.8%	67.3%
Households without animals	2.4%	7.8%	2.3%
Households with elderly members	22.9%	21.6%	32.7%
Children living without parents	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%

Enumerators took observations of respondents housing conditions during the survey data collection. Housing conditions serve as a further indicator of vulnerability, and also show progress if conditions improve over the life of the program. For each housing condition criteria, enumerators marked 'yes', 'yes, but in bad condition', or 'no'. For walls, there was an additional choice for half-height concrete walls. Table 7 shows the incidence of 'yes' responses across the three surveys.

Table 7. Incidence of households' housing conditions.

Housing condition	Baseline	Midline	Endline
Corrugated iron or concrete roof	43.9%	69.3%	66.9%
Concrete floor	28.9%	42.6%	47.4%
Concrete or block walls	25.4%	48.0%	46.2%

EVALUATION FINDINGS

1. Effectiveness

Successes in improving food security were substantial, with HFIAS and MAHFP targets exceeded. Most notable was the 115.6% increase in households assessed as food secure over the life of the program. Production increases were achieved for field crops with yield targets exceeded for all rice and maize varieties, and postharvest loss reduction was considerable (43.4% - 76.0% reductions across all crops). A contributing factor to Haforsa's success in this area was likely the promotion and widespread uptake of MAF released varieties (*Sele* and especially *Noi Mutin* maize and *Kiukae* mung beans). **Of note for future programming is the strong preference among Haforsa beneficiaries for *Noi Mutin*, a white maize variety.** After early difficulties in achieving hermetic conditions in storage containers, these issues seem to have been remedied after the engagement of a technical expert with resulting reductions in postharvest losses. The target of 75% postharvest loss reduction for all crops may have been overly optimistic for Timor-Leste conditions. For horticultural crops, gains achieved at the time of the midterm review were lost in the later years of the program and most showed a decrease below baseline production levels. Soybeans were the exception to this, with an increase of 483%.



Permanent Garden full of Noi Mutin maize in Suku Lalisuk Oecusse / Pedro Audilio Mendonça

Haforsa fell short of achieving some of its planned outcomes and indicators, particularly around market development. Income at the time of the endline survey was 23.7% below baseline levels. Respondents confidence in selling their produce remained static throughout the program, and did not reach the target of 50% 'very confident.' Only 12% of farmers reported using a market analysis to make planting decisions (target: 50%), and there was only a 6.5% increase in farmers selling produce at market against a 50% increase target. Income from individual and group (either collectively planted or collectively sold) crop sales and small business activities were notable exceptions however, with increases in these income types. Contextual factors around income

generation include a country-wide economic downturn among the rural population since approximately 2018, but opportunities were also missed to undertake market-building initiatives beyond increasing production. Targeting a broader customer base, implementing influencing initiatives on local and national government to improve the enabling environment for local produce, addressing supply chain bottlenecks such as transport, identifying underlying constraints such as water availability when selecting sites for program activities, and placing a greater emphasis on innovative agricultural technologies (i.e. poly-tunnels, weed matting, drip irrigation, etc.) could have improved Haforsa's income results. In the latter example, Haforsa's approach deliberately focused on low cost/no input horticultural techniques. While there is merit to this approach, consideration for some higher-production technologies may have been better suited to a program with a sizeable marketing component.

Haforsa did not meet its target of 40% 'very confident' in their resilience against disasters and shocks but if a wider range of confidence levels is considered, 62% of respondents reported being either 'very confident' or 'confident.' The endline survey found that 16.9% of farmers were accessing weather information at least monthly (target: 50%), 47.0% could name at least one climate change hazard, and 45.1% could name an example of a natural disaster. Saving for change (SfC) was a clear program success. Among respondents who had taken out loans from their SfC group, 82.6% rated the process as 'easy' or 'very easy', while 61.7% were satisfied with the transparency and accountability of the process. Saving for change was an effective resilience strategy, receiving entirely positive feedback from the qualitative components of the endline survey and producing numerous examples of benefits during final evaluation FGDs. Group members reported using loans and savings to provide for their families during income gaps, paying for their children's education (including at the university level), and improving their housing conditions. While entrepreneurial investment remained low, this is an opportunity to build on the already substantial success of these groups in future programs.



A Savings for Change group member from Oecusse displays the fridge she saved for / Pedro Audilio Mendonça

At the end of the program, 48.5% (53.8% in KSI/MDI areas) of people with a disability and 49.6% (61.5% in KSI/MDI areas) of women felt 'confident' or 'very confident' that they could influence decisions in their communities (target:75%), and 51.5% of women and 66.7% of people with a disability felt that there had been a change in their ability to plan and influence Haforsa program

activities during the life of the program. The differences in the results between the KSI/MDI areas and other areas could be attributed to specific influencing activities that were part of the projects in these target areas, such as MDI's [advocacy for installation of clean water in Suai](#) which preceded support from the DFAT-funded PNDS, as well as the Ministry of Social Solidarity (MSS). In the KSI/MDI areas 38.5% of respondents felt 'confident' or 'very confident' to participate in public policy discussions, and 69.2% fell into these categories when asked about their confidence to participate in community decision-making processes.

Data was incomplete for some indicators at the time of the evaluation. For example, indicator 2.1A seems not to have been documented during implementation. The qualitative component of the survey was sometime able to collect information where none was available, as noted under the relevant indicators throughout this section. Several indicators also changed from percentages to numbers after the midterm evaluation. For example, indicator 3.1.1B changed from the % to the # of targeted men, women, and people with a disability who report an increase in their understanding and confidence to use social accountability mechanisms. The midterm evaluation recommended that this data be compiled from post training tests, but no data was available against this indicator. In some instances, a percentage can be derived from a related endline survey question, and this is included where possible against the relevant indicators below. However, the percentage of endline respondents responding to a survey question should not be taken as an analogue for the total number of beneficiaries required by an indicator. Where data was available, some inconsistencies were observed. For example, data provided against indicator 4.1A states that 43 women, 121 men, and 4 people with disabilities partner staff participated in trainings delivered/supported by Oxfam, but the total number is listed as 153 which suggests that either the total or one of the disaggregated figures is incorrect. Targets were missing or not set for several indicators, and others were questionable such as indicator 4.1B which lists a target of 9% of partners reporting changes in progress on prioritised capacity development areas identified in Partner Capacity Assessments (this is likely due to the target not being updated when changed from % to #). Every effort was made during the endline survey and coordination with the Oxfam MEL team to fill gaps and address errors, but as recommended in the baseline survey and midterm evaluation reports, data from regular monitoring must be collected and compiled in order to document progress in many areas.

- **Objective 1: Women, men and people with disabilities in rural communities have improved family food and income security**

Targets	Results
50% of HHs with improved food security	HFIAS 115.6% increase in Food Secure
MAHFP: 11 months	11.3 months
Average 3 meals/day	2.75 meals/day
25% increase in annual income	-23.7% income
Average 3.5 income sources	2.9 sources

Haforsa met or exceeded most of its goals in food security. Most notable is the 115.6% increase in households assessed as food secure by HFIAS criteria. The incidence of food secure households among surveyed participants increased steadily throughout the program. Also significant is the 11.3 months of food security reported by respondents in the endline survey, an increase of 1.2 months over Haforsa's implementation period.

Despite gains in beneficiary income at the time of the midterm survey, Haforsa did not meet its income targets, with a 23.7% decrease in surveyed beneficiary income between the baseline and endline surveys. Qualitative data from FGDs and key informant interviews suggests that this is partially due to climatic factors, particularly in Oecusse, and implementation in areas of water scarcity. Shallot production and sales were reported to have dropped significantly there, mainly due

to lack of water, and many farmers who had initially grown cash crops with the program had switched back to subsistence farming. Activities to influence government to improve the enabling environment for local produce or to advocate for local producers in the market were largely absent from Haforsa, and there was little success in moving farmers beyond their traditional markets. As noted in the midterm review, an over-emphasis on marketing produce to the School Feeding Program left few other options for a target market as the School Feeding Program has remained at pilot levels for several years. Attempts to establish links between producers and Dili supermarkets did not result in many sales, as farmers were either constrained by the enabling environment, not proactive enough, or were not competitive for these markets.

- 1.A. % of target vulnerable households show improved food security

The Household Food Insecurity Access Scale (HFIAS) asks respondents a series of questions about whether their household has experienced food limitations, and how often these limitations occurred. Responses are then coded and a score is determined which places the household in one of four categories as outlined in Table 8. A steady increase in households in the ‘food secure’ category was observed throughout Haforsa, with a 115.6% increase in the percentage of respondents in this category between the baseline and endline. While all other food security targets were achieved, the number of meals consumed in the last 24 hours dropped compared to the baseline and midline. When asked how many meals household members had consumed in the previous 24 hours, respondents reported an average of 2.75 meals, compared to baseline figures of 2.87 meals, and 2.95 meals reported in the midline.

Table 8. HFIAS comparison.

	baseline	midline	endline	Endline Men	Endline Women	Endline Person with a disability
Food secure	34.5%	57.4%	74.4%	76.8%	73.1%	66.7%
Mildly insecure	16.7%	16.9%	12.0%	12.1%	12.0%	11.1%
Moderately insecure	34.5%	11.8%	5.3%	2.0%	7.2%	0.0%
Severely insecure	14.3%	13.9%	8.3%	9.1%	7.8%	22.2%

The Months of Adequate Household Food Provisioning (MAHFP) inquiries about respondent’s food security throughout the previous year. The endline survey found that respondents’ households reported adequate food provisioning for 11.3 months, an increase of 1.2 months over baseline levels.

Table 9. MAHFP comparison

	Baseline (months)	Midline (months)	Endline (months)
Whole sample	10.1	11.3	11.3
Covalima	8.9	11.6	11.7
Oe-cusse	9.1	11.0	11.1

- 1.B % increase in annual income per household

Table 10 shows the changes in reported annual income among beneficiaries over the duration of the program. Annual income had increased by 43.4% at the time of the midterm survey, but by the end of the program had dropped 23.7% below baseline levels². There was no clear trend pointing to a specific cause for the drop in income, other than a steady decline in the percentage of households engaged in livestock sales (B: 70.7%, M: 64.5%, E: 53.8%) throughout the program. African Swine Fever was recognized in Timor-Leste by the MAF on 27 September 2019 with major losses to the nation’s pig herd reported since that time. This is likely to have affected the livestock activities of Haforsa beneficiaries prior to the endline survey. The average number of income sources reported also decreased slightly by 3.3%.

Table 10. Income comparison

	Baseline	Midline	Endline	% change from baseline
\bar{X} total income in previous 12 months	\$1,073.66	\$1,539.66	\$819.21	-23.7%
\bar{X} number of income sources	3.0	2.5	2.9	-3.3%

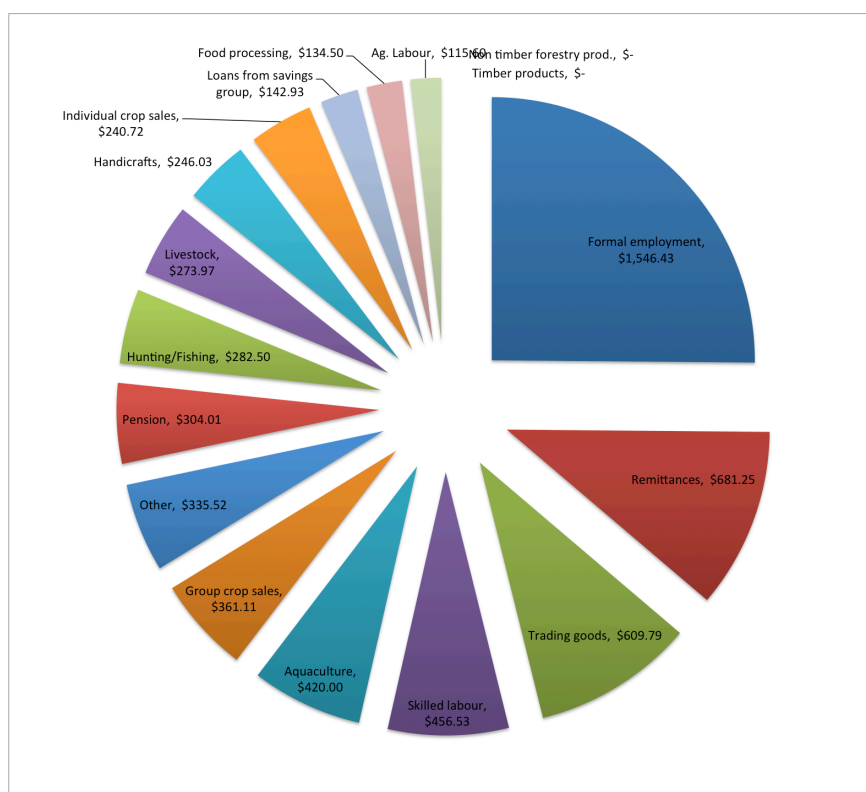


Figure 2. Average earning (12 mo.) by income source (endline).

Table 11, Table 12, and Figure 2 outline the survey results on income sources. Income from crop sales represented the 6th (group sales) and 12th (individual sales) highest earning sources of income

² The midterm survey report notes that exceptional respondents – outliers in the data – had a substantial effect on income figures. There was a similar effect in the income data in the endline survey. Total annual income figures for all respondents ranged from \$2.00 to \$9,277.00 and had a standard deviation of \$1,105.55. In the endline survey, this effect seems to have trended towards a higher average income, as an average figure excluding the 10% highest and 10% lowest average incomes is \$650.52/year. The median income from the endline survey was \$530.00.

for respondents. The highest average annual income earned from any crop was \$341.54 for irrigated rice, which was sold by 4.9% of respondents. Formal employment and remittances were the highest earning sources of annual income, while individual crop sales (average \$240.72/year) and livestock (average \$273.97/year) were the most common sources of income.

Table 11. Number of respondents reporting income sources and average income (12 mo.) (endline).

Source	Number	%	Average income (12 mo.)
Individual crop sales	187	70.3%	\$240.72
Livestock	143	53.8%	\$273.97
Loans from savings group	111	41.7%	\$142.93
Pension	87	32.7%	\$304.01
Ag. Labour	52	19.5%	\$115.60
Handicrafts	37	13.9%	\$246.03
Other	33	12.4%	\$335.52
Trading goods	24	9.0%	\$609.79
Formal employment	21	7.9%	\$1,546.43
Skilled labour	19	7.1%	\$456.53
Food processing	10	3.8%	\$134.50
Group crop sales	9	3.4%	\$361.11
Hunting/Fishing	6	2.3%	\$282.50
Remittances	4	1.5%	\$681.25
Aquaculture	1	0.4%	\$420.00
Timber products	0	0.0%	\$-
Non timber forestry prod.	0	0.0%	\$-

Table 12. Average income (12 mo.) from crop sales, and number selling (endline).

Crop Sold	Average annual income	number selling
Irrigated rice	\$341.54	13
Soybean	\$173.60	10
Corn Noimutin	\$135.39	61
Corn Sele	\$125.50	10
Avocado and fruits	\$123.33	3
Corn Traditional	\$105.24	33
Non-irrigated rice	\$83.00	10
Garlic	\$75.00	2
Other Crops	\$65.98	266
Shallots	\$63.33	57
High value vegetables (cabbage, green beans, lettuce etc.)	\$46.91	11
(Other) Leafy vegetables	\$40.40	60
Other vegetables	\$39.48	48
Coconuts	\$33.33	3
Cassava	\$30.60	60
Sweet Potato	\$28.33	36
Banana	\$25.95	37
Taro	\$22.14	14
Pineapple	\$14.70	10

- Outcome 1.1: Women, men and people with a disability in rural communities have increased agricultural production (quality and quantity) through utilizing recommended agricultural techniques and farming management

Targets	Results	
20% increase for maize and rice (all types) yields	Change in Yield (Baseline to Endline)	
	Irrigated rice	29%
	Unirrigated rice	62%
	Maize – <i>Sele</i>	22%
	Maize – <i>Noi Mutin</i>	100%
	Maize - Traditional	55%
Production increases of: Shallots 25% High value veg. 50% Leafy veg. 25% Other veg. 25%	Change in Production (Baseline to Endline)	
	Shallots	-60%
	High value veg.	-28%
	Leafy veg.	11%
	Other veg.	-7%
75% reduction in postharvest losses	Change in Postharvest Losses (Baseline to Endline)	
	Irrigated rice	-43.4%
	Unirrigated rice	-58.2%
	Maize – <i>Sele</i>	-45.9%
	Maize – <i>Noi Mutin</i>	-76.0%
	Maize - Traditional	-56.4%
Training targets listed in Table 34 in Annex 1 Error! Reference source not found.	All training targets exceeded for outcome 1.1	

Haforsa exceeded its targets for increased production for all field crops (rice and maize), but saw decreased in production for horticultural (vegetable) crops over the life of the program. Lack of water was often cited by participants in FGDs as a reason for decreased vegetable crop production. Some respondents had continued to grow vegetable crops, but had shifted away from marketing toward self consumption due to low production and difficulty accessing markets. Substantial decreases in postharvest losses were reported for all surveyed crops, though only *Noi Mutin* maize met the target of a 75% reduction. As previously noted, a target of 75% reductions in postharvest losses may have been overly optimistic for Timor-Leste conditions.

The highest uptake of improved agricultural practices was the use of organic fertilizer and planting of live fences. Among those respondents reporting that they implemented the various improved practices, most felt that this increased their income. Table 13 outlines this data.

Table 13. Respondents implementing improved agricultural practices and those reporting resultant increased income.

Improved technique	Implementing		Report increased income	
	number	% all respondents	number	% implementing respondents
Use of organic fertilizer	174	65%	164	94%
Planting life fences	161	61%	157	98%
Use of organic pesticides	82	31%	82	100%
Mulching	72	27%	67	93%
Terracing/Permanent gardens	71	27%	70	99%
Improved seed production	42	16%	42	100%
Crop diversification	27	10%	27	100%
Improved harvesting techniques	21	8%	21	100%
Other	17	6%	5	29%
Improved seed storage	16	6%	16	100%
Improved processing techniques	10	4%	10	100%
Soil testing	5	2%	4	80%
Improved storage techniques	4	2%	4	100%

- 1.1.A % increase in production of targeted crops by targeted farmer group/ cooperative members.

Yields for supported field crops increased throughout the program, resulting in yield targets being exceeded for all rice and maize varieties. In the three surveys, respondents had the option of stating their yields for each crop over the last 12 months in either kilogram or a number of local units (i.e. sacks, baskets), which they then estimated in kilograms. Planting area could be reported in either square meters or hectares, or the respondent could estimate the length and width of their fields in meters. Standard units are not well understood and farmers rarely keep records. Data cleaning revealed a high incidence of impossible and implausible yields. A high threshold was used for which data points to include in analysis, but clearly impossible figures were excluded. For horticultural crops, production dropped or showed minimal improvement over the life of the program. This matches qualitative data, where respondents cited climatic factors and lack of market access as reasons for focusing this crop production on household consumption. Soybeans (included in horticultural crops to match previous survey analyses) were the exception, with a substantial production increase during Haforsa implementation. Table 14 presents the yield data for field crops, and Table 15 outlines the production data for vegetable crops and soybeans.

Table 14. Yields for supported crops.

	Baseline yield (kg/ha)	Midline yield (kg/ha)	Endline (kg/ha)*	% increase baseline to endline
Irrigated rice	1,439.5	1,455.7	1,858.4	29%
Unirrigated rice	590.7	743.5	959.3	62%
Maize – <i>Sele</i>	845.8	637.2	1,029.7	22%
Maize – <i>Noi Mutin</i>	613.9	978.9	1,226.7	100%
Maize - Traditional	681.3	651.2	1,056.8	55%

*Some respondents reported implausible yields. See limitations. Values above 10,000 kg/ha for rice and 4,000kg/ha for maize were excluded during data cleaning.

Table 15. Production of supported crops.

	Baseline (kg)	Midline (kg)	Endline (kg)*	% increase baseline to endline
Shallots	175.1	181.9	69.8	-60%
Soybean	50	n/a	291.4	483%
Leafy veg.	76.4	162.3	84.8	11%
Other veg.	71.2	82.7	65.9	-7%
High value veg.	109.2	165.2	78.3	-28%
Garlic	25	n/a	25.0	0%

*Implausible yields excluded during data cleaning.

- 1.1.B % reduction in post-harvest losses

Postharvest losses were steadily reduced throughout the program, with reductions of over 40% for all crops. Note that this is a decrease in losses, and therefore an increase in useable produce.

Table 16. % reduction in postharvest losses for supported crops.

	Baseline loss	Midline loss	Endline loss	% DECREASE baseline to endline
Irrigated rice	22.1%	16.8%	12.5%	-43.4%
Unirrigated rice	28.7%	18.8%	12.0%	-58.2%
Maize – <i>Sele</i>	20.5%	15.7%	11.1%	-45.9%
Maize – <i>Noi Mutin</i>	38.3%	15.4%	9.2%	-76.0%
Maize - Traditional	29.6%	21.2%	12.9%	-56.4%
Shallots	16.3%	16.3%	8.4%	-48.5%

- Output 1.1.1: Female, male and people with a disability farmers trained in agriculture technical and management farming capacities
 - 1.1.1.A # Female, male and people with a disability participated in each training
 - 1.1.1.B % participants (female, male and people with a disability) who are applying the technique

Haforsa trained a total of 11,191 people under this output, with 3,715 beneficiaries subsequently applying improved agricultural techniques. **Error! Reference source not found.** in Annex 1 shows disaggregated participant figures for the total, and specific trainings offered by Haforsa. For indicator 1.1.1B5, it is assumed that 4 visits took place, with the disaggregation figures representing attendees across the 4 trainings. Where targets were set, Haforsa exceeded the number of target trainees for all training types under this outcome. Available data for this indicator is in Table 34 in Annex 1.

- Outcome 1.2: Improved marketing linkages and value chain management by targeted farmers

Target	Results
50% very confident selling crops	9.0% very confident
100% increase in income from sales	-64.6% individual crop sales 33.7% group crop sales

Haforsa did not achieve its targets for outcome 1.2. Respondents reporting that they were 'very confident' that they could sell their crops at market made up 9.0% of the endline survey sample, compared to 6.6% at the baseline. If the criteria are widened to the 'very confident' and 'confident'

categories combined, 54.0% of respondents at the endline fall into one of these categories. The income from sales reduced by 64.6% between the baseline and endline for individual sales, but showed a 33.7% increase from group sales. Some effect from the COVID-19 restrictions which limited transport and closed local marketplaces in the final months of Haforsa (and in the months preceding the end line survey) may have influenced respondent’s confidence in selling their produce, but the number of ‘not going to market’ responses decreased from baseline to endline.

- 1.2.A % of targeted farmer group/cooperative members, (men, women, people with a disability) who report increased confidence that they can sell their produce at the market.

Table 17 shows the data on respondents’ confidence in their ability to market their produce. Note that in the endline, there is little difference between the confidence of men and women, compared to the overall sample.

Table 17. Confidence in marketing comparison.

	Baseline	Midline	Endline	Endline Female	Endline Male	Endline People with a Disability
Very confident	6.6%	9.8%	9.0%	9.0%	9.1%	-
Confident	53.8%	53.7%	44.0%	42.5%	46.5%	66.4%
Halfway confident	2.2%	4.1%	3.0%	2.4%	4.0%	-
A bit confident	5.5%	7.1%	3.4%	4.8%	1.0%	-
Not confident	1.1%	1.0%	14.3%	15.0%	13.1%	-
Not going to market	30.8%	24.3%	26.3%	26.3%	26.3%	33.3%

- 1.2.B Amount and % increase in income from the sale of agricultural crops by targeted women men and people with disability

Income from individual crop sales increased from \$84.73 at the baseline to \$240.72 at the endline, an increase of 184%. Group crop sales increased as well, with a 6105% increase in this category. A total of 9 respondents (3.2%) reported selling produce through their group.

Table 18. Crop sales comparison.

	Baseline	Midline	Endline	% change
Individual crop sales	\$84.73	\$330.02	\$240.72	184%
Crop sales through group	\$5.82	\$22.88	\$361.11	6105%

- Output 1.2.1: Female, male and people with a disability farmers trained in market analysis, marketing concepts, developing marketing plans, small scale processing and packaging

Targets	Results
50% utilize market VCA to inform crop choice	12.0% used VCA
50% increase in farmers selling at market	6.5% increase

Haforsa did not achieve its targets for beneficiaries utilizing information from a market value chain assessment (VCA) to inform their crop choice or in increasing the number of farmers selling at market, or in increasing the percentage of farmers selling at market. As noted elsewhere, farmers

favoured their traditional crops and markets. Location was likely a major contributing factor to this. An attempt was made to link beneficiary producers to supermarkets (noted on p. 15), but Covalima and Oecusse are far from Dili and there are closer and longer-established horticulture production areas that are more accessible to these buyers. Programs sometimes attempt to mitigate this by focusing on developing the middle of the value chain, but only a few small instances of aggregator activity took place during Haforsa. Location was also an effect because many program areas didn't have sufficient water sources to produce the more marketable crops. This was often mentioned in FGDs (and discussed on p. 43). There is a tendency among farmers to focus on staples and leafy greens where water is scarce. An additional factor is that the low-input system isn't conducive to growing high value vegetables. Where there is no water access in the dry season farmers are limited to growing in the wet season, but this is a difficult time to grow crops like eggplant and tomatoes (rainfall damages crops and spreads fungal disease). The areas where horticulture has been most successful like Aileu and Ermera deal with this by building simple covers like polytunnels.

- 1.2.1.A % of farmers utilizing the market value chain analysis to inform their crop selection choices

For all incidences of a planted crop among respondents in the endline survey, 7.1% of these plantings were made due to information from a market study. Among all respondents, 12.0% had made a planting decision for at least one crop based on a market study.

Table 19. % respondents planting based on a market study (endline)

Crop	% planting due to market study
Irrigated rice	3%
Unirrigated rice	1%
Sele maize	3%
Noi Mutin maize	3%
Traditional maize	1%
Shallots	18%
Soybeans	8%
Garlic	0%
High value veg.	21%
Leafy veg.	16%
Other veg.	10%

- 1.2.1.B % increase in farmers selling their products in the market

In line with income and other sales parameters, there was an increase in incidences of farmers selling their products at market at the time of the midline, but a decline between the midline and baseline surveys. The 29.7% of respondents selling at market at the endline was a 6.5% increase from baseline levels, but the remainder of respondents sold their crops only through less formal means such as waiting for buyers to approach them in their homes or selling produce by walking through their villages. As mentioned elsewhere (p. 15 & 43), FGDs revealed that many beneficiaries had switched back to subsistence farming during Haforsa. Most continued to grow vegetables and other Haforsa crops, but used the produce for home consumption. Respondents mostly cited lack of water, and also lack of buyers as reasons for ceasing their commercial production. In situations where a farmer's overall production is low and they're mostly eating their own crops, it makes sense that they might sell some through less formal means but not necessarily take them to a marketplace.

Table 20. % respondents selling their products in the market.

	Baseline	Midline	Endline	% change
Selling products in the market	27.9%	34.8%	29.7%	6.5%

- Output 1.2.2: Farmer groups/cooperatives or marketing collectives established

Targets	Results
2% people with a disability	0.5% (#=67)

Haforsa reached a total of 67 people with a disability, representing 0.5% of the total beneficiaries in the program (target 2%). The program supported a total of 281 groups.

- 1.2.2.A. # of farmer groups/cooperatives established

The Oxfam MEL team has documented 281 groups supported by the Haforsa program at the time of the end of the program. This has increased from 132 groups identified at the time of the midterm review.

- 1.2.2.B % of group members who are people with a disability

People with a disability made up 0.5% of group members across the 281 Haforsa groups. During KIIs partner staff cited the work done by RHTO as being the most significant success in the area of inclusion. In 2016 Oxfam engaged RHTO to raise awareness and improve inclusion of people with disabilities amongst program partners. RHTO assisted Oxfam and partners to modify their training and programming to better suit people with disabilities, worked with Oxfam-supported groups to develop more inclusive practices related to program activities, and to make improvements in these areas in their own organizations. This included assisting partners to implement disability plans by using their manual in Tetum, which was based on international best practice.

Interviewees gave examples of how they had increased the inclusion of people with disabilities both in their programming, and within their own organizations. These findings are consistent with the findings from the *Lessons from the Field* report which found that before RHTO's contribution, people with disabilities were not involved because partners were not aware of people with a disability in their communities, or did not know how people with disabilities could contribute. In addition, partners said that they had previously assumed that people with a disability were 'shy' and 'not wanting to meet new people'. RHTO's two-pronged approach was to firstly raise awareness of organisations on disability inclusion, then support raising awareness about the presence of people with a disability in the community and define what that means, and secondly to identify people with disabilities in target areas and identify and support inclusion strategies for people with disabilities to participate in the program and wider society. The prevailing view from both FGDs and KII's was that both RHTO and Oxfam staff explained a clear narrative of their joint approach and linked this to Oxfam's vision, in a manner that stood out from other areas in how clearly it was articulated.

- Outcome 1.3: Women, men and people with disabilities in rural communities establish profitable and sustainable small businesses

Targets	Results
income increase: Trading 50% Handicraft 50% Food processing 100%	Trading 1,134% Handicraft 1,735% Food processing 582%

Haforsa greatly exceeded its targets for increased income from small business activities. The income reported by respondents for each of the targeted business types increased dramatically between the baseline and endline surveys.

- 1.3.A % increase in income from small business activities by targeted men, women and people with a disability

The endline survey found substantial increases in income derived from trading, handicraft, and food processing businesses compared to baseline and midline levels. Trading was the activity that brought the highest income levels, though income for women and people with a disability trailed that of men in this activity. At the time of the endline survey, 9% of respondents were involved in trading goods, 13.9% in producing handicrafts, and 3.8% in food processing.

Table 21. Income from small business activities.

	Baseline	Midline	Endline	Endline Women	Endline Men	Endline People with a disability	% change
Trading	\$49.40	\$53.20	\$609.79	\$552.75	\$895.00	\$230.00	1,134%
Handicraft	\$13.41	\$78.27	\$246.03	\$340.91	\$106.87	-	1,735%
Food processing	\$19.72	\$15.22	\$134.50	\$203.33	\$31.25	-	582%

- 1.3.B # of small business activities led by women³

Data for the number of small business activities led by women was unavailable. This indicator changed from a % to a # after the midterm evaluation. It is unclear whether a new target was set after the indicator changed. Table 22 shows a comparison of percentages against the old indicator from baseline to endline. A number of endline survey respondents is also included, but this is for informational purposes only and cannot be extrapolated to the wider program. Against the previous target of 100%, the percentage of women leading each type of small business activity fell throughout implementation. At the time of the endline, 415 women, 290 men, and 0 people with a disability participated in training on food processing, post harvest techniques.

Table 22. Small business activities led by women.

	Baseline	Midline	Endline	Endline #
Trading	91.7%	81.8%	83.3%	20
Handicraft	100%	84.6%	59.5%	22
Food processing	100%	90.9%	60.0%	6

³ Due to a revision to this indicator, previous surveys state the figure as a %. Both are provided for the endline.

- Output 1.3.1: Vulnerable males, females and people with a disability trained in establishing and managing small businesses.

Results measured by individual indicators below

- 1.3.1.A.# of men, women and people with a disability trained in small business management

The midterm evaluation notes that 76 men, 82 women, and 0 people with a disability were trained under this indicator. No further data was available.

- 1.3.1.B. # of men, women and people with a disability who established small businesses

No information from previous surveys was available for this indicator, and no data on training or the establishment of small businesses was available. At the time of the endline, 71 respondents (27%) from the endline survey reported income from small business activities.

- **Objective 2: Vulnerable rural communities have improved resilience to disasters and shocks (fast and slow onset)**

Targets	Results
40% 'Very confident' in their resilience to disasters and shocks (fast and slow onset)	12% 'Very confident'

Haforsa did not meet its target for of 40% 'very confident' in their resilience against disasters and shocks, though if the criteria is widened 62% of respondents reported being either 'very confident' or 'confident.' Compared to the baseline, less women, men, and people with a disability reported both the 'very confident' and 'confident' categories.

- 2.A % of men, women, and people with disability that have increased confidence in their ability to cope with shocks and stresses.

Table 23. Confidence level to cope with shocks and stresses.

	Baseline	Midline	Endline %
All respondents			
Very confident	n/a	n/a	12.0%
Confident	n/a	n/a	50.0%
Women			
Very confident	12.4%	9.0%	10.2%
Confident	60.2%	46.4%	53.3%
Men			
Very confident	19.8%	7.7%	15.2%
Confident	52.4%	44.6%	44.4%
People with a disability			
Very confident	7.1%	1.2%	-
Confident	71.4%	44.4%	66.7%

- Outcome 2.1: Improved community capacity to plan climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction measures

Results measured by individual indicators below

- 2.1.A # of communities who have & implement preparedness plans to protect lives and assets

No data available.

- Output 2.1.1: Disaster and climate variability mitigation strategies identified through community action plans

Targets	Results
Targets listed in Table 35 Error! Reference source not found.	See Annex 1 Error! Reference source not found.

- 2.1.1.A # of target communities with community action plans
- 2.1.1.B % of target communities with community action plans
- 2.1.1.C # of community action plan established which are revised periodically
- 2.1.1.D # of men, women and people with a disability to participate in development community action plans

MEL data records 39 communities with community action plans, 10 of which were new plans under Haforsa. Communities with plans made up 62.9% of the 62 aldeias where Haforsa was implemented. A total of 3,164 (1,461 women, 1,699 men, and 4 people with a disability) beneficiaries participated in the creation of these community action plans, and 9 of the plans were revised periodically. The full data available under this output is in Table 35 in Annex 1.

- Output 2.1.2: Communities have the capacity to implement activities at the Suco or Aldeia level, in line with their action plans

Targets	Results
Targets listed in Table 36 Error! Reference source not found.	See Annex 1 Error! Reference source not found.

- 2.1.2.A # of *Tara Bandu* regulations developed and # updated
- 2.1.2.B # of early warning systems established and utilized by communities in target area

Haforsa oversaw the development of 35 *Tara Bandu* regulations during its implementation period, as well as 4 early warning systems established and utilized in target communities. The participation of 9 women was recorded in the *Tara Bandu* processes. Available data under this indicator is in Table 36 in Annex 1.

- Outcome 2.2: Increased household level knowledge and practice of strategies that promote climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction to improve their food security.

Targets	Results
At least 50% of farmers have access to information at least once/month	16.9% accessed information at least monthly

- 2.2.A % of target farmers able to use climate information to make decisions for their livelihood adaptation and risk reduction options

The endline survey found that 47.0% of respondents could name at least one climate change hazard and that 45.1% could name an example of a natural disaster. Furthermore, 40.5% of female and 27.8% of male respondents felt that Haforsa had increased their understanding of climate change.

Haforsa Final Evaluation

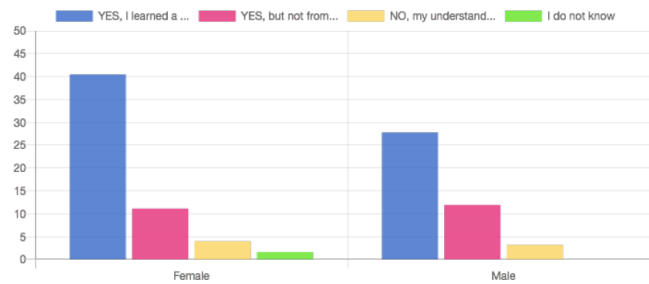


Figure 3. % of respondents reporting Haforsa increased their understanding of climate change.

When asked about their understanding of disaster risks, 34.2% of female and 28.3% of male respondents felt that Haforsa had increased their understanding.

At the time of midterm of respective accessing the endline, said that they information. information at made up 16.9% respondents.

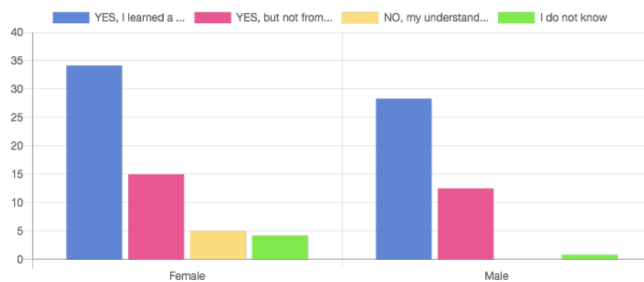


Figure 4. % of respondents reporting Haforsa increased their understanding of disaster risks by gender.

the baseline and surveys, 20.2% and 5.1% respondents reported weather information. At 22.2% of respondents accessed weather Those accessing weather least once per month of surveyed

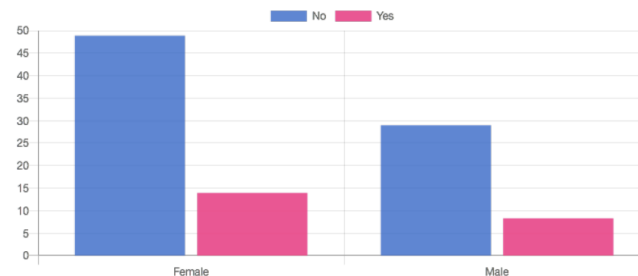


Figure 5. % of respondents accessing weather information by gender.

- Output 2.2.1: Men, women and people with a disability trained on techniques that respond to disaster profile and climate variability

Targets	Results
Targets listed in Table 37 Error! Reference source not found.	See Annex 1 Error! Reference source not found.

- 2.2.1.A # of men, women and people with a disability trained on:
 - Climate change and disaster risks
 - Early warning systems
 - Water source conservation
 - Soil and moisture management

- 2.2.1.B % of men, women and people with a disability who apply the techniques:
 - Water source conservation
 - Soil and moisture management

A total of 3,140 beneficiaries were trained on at least one of the three topics under indicator 2.2.1A and 2,652 were recorded to have applied water source conservation and soil and moisture management techniques. Available data under this output is in Table 37 in Annex 1.

Among the respondents of the endline survey, 60.5% were implementing water source conservation and 39.5% were implementing soil moisture management. Disaggregated results can be found in Table 24.

Table 24. Application of soil and water conservation techniques.

Implementing	Women	Men	People with a disability
Water source conservation	59.9%	61.6%	66.7%
Soil and moisture management	40.7%	37.4%	55.6%

- Output 2.2.2: Women, men and people with a disability are able to access low interest loans and their saving capital at appropriate times to reduce the impact of shocks, and as capital to invest in their food and livelihood security.

Targets	Results
125 savings and loan groups	159 SfC groups established

- 2.2.2.A # of savings and loan groups established/supported by the program

The Oxfam MEL team documents 159 Haforsa supported savings and loan groups. This has increased from 87 groups at the time of the midline survey.

- 2.2.2.B % of loans within groups utilized for income generating activities

In the endline survey, 56.0% of respondents reported having taken out at least one loan in the last 12 months. Among the 149 respondents who had taken out a loan, the most common uses for funds from loans were: Education (50.0%), food (43%), and for emergencies (16.1%). Incidences of loans for income generating activities were low, with 0.0% taking a loan for agricultural inputs and 12.1% taking a loan for business activities.

Table 25. Use of loans for business generating activities.

Loan use	Baseline	Midline	Endline
loans for agriculture	5.1%	4.6%	0.0%
loans for business	18.6%	8.0%	12.1%

- 2.2.2.C % of group members who are satisfied with the transparency, accountability

At the endline, 61.7% of respondents who had taken out a loan felt that it was ‘easy’ or ‘very easy’ to get information on the status of their loan. Furthermore, 25.5% of respondents said that their group provided them with information on the financial status of the group ‘at least weekly’, and 38.8% ‘at least monthly’.

Table 26. Ease of getting information on their loan.

Ease of getting information	Baseline	Midline	Endline
'Easy' or 'Very easy'	76.8%	67.0%	61.7%

- 2.2.2.D % Of group members who are satisfied with ease of accessibility of loan from their savings group model implemented/supported by the program

In total, 82.6% of respondents who had taken out a loan felt that the loan process was 'very easy' or 'easy.'

Table 27. Ease of taking out a loan.

Ease of getting loans	Baseline	Midline	Endline
'Easy' or 'Very easy'	76.2%	70.0%	82.6%

- Outcome 2.3 Increased capacity and confidence of women and people with a disability to take up leadership positions and to actively participate to influence decisions within their communities

Targets	Results
75% Confident or very confident that people with a disability can influence decisions...	48.5% confident or very confident (53.8% in KSI/MDI areas)
75% Confident or very confident that women can influence decisions...	49.6% confident or very confident (61.5% in KSI/MDI areas)

Haforsa was unable to achieve its target of 75% of respondents reporting that they were confident or very confident that women and people with a disability could actively participate and influence decisions within their communities but there is an indication that efforts in communities that received influencing activities from KSI, MDI (and some also by RHTO) made an impact. Both of these indicators stayed relatively stable in the total samples from each survey throughout the program, with a slight increase in perceived influence of people with a disability, and a slight decrease in the perceived influence of women. In KSI/MDI areas, the endline results were 10.3% higher than for other areas in the two levels of confidence for people with a disability, and 11.9% higher for women.

- 2.3.A. % of community members who report confidence that people with a disability and women can influence decisions within their communities

Respondents' confidence that people with a disability can influence decisions within their community increased slightly to 48.4% during Haforsa. An attribution question was added to the endline survey and when asked if their participation in the program had increased their confidence in this area, 48.5% of respondents felt that their confidence had improved due to Haforsa. In KSI/MDI areas, 53.8% of respondents fell into the two relevant confidence levels.

Table 28. Confidence in the influence of people with a disability.

Confidence in the influence of people with a disability	Baseline	Midline	Endline
'Confident' or 'Very confident'	42.1%	45.3%	48.4%
KSI/MDI areas only			
'Confident' or 'Very confident'	n/a	n/a	53.8%

Respondents reporting that they were 'confident' or 'very confident' that women could influence decisions in their communities dropped slightly to 49.6% during Haforsa. When asked whether their confidence in this area could be attributed to their participation in the program, 56.8% said that it had. In KSI/MDI areas, 61.5% of respondents fell into the two relevant confidence levels.

Table 29. Confidence in the influence of women.

Confidence in the influence of women	Baseline	Midline	Endline
'Confident' or 'Very confident'	52.0%	46.2%	49.6%
KSI/MDI areas only			
'Confident' or 'Very confident'	n/a	n/a	61.5%

- 2.3.B % of leadership positions within groups held by women

Eighty five women held leadership roles across the Haforsa SfC groups, comprising 74% of groups. At the time of the endline survey, 50 respondents held a management position in their group, 29 of whom were women (58.0% of those holding a position).

- Output 2.3.1. Increased awareness and acceptance of gender and disability inclusion concepts and of women's leadership

Results measured by individual indicators below

- 2.3.1.A % of women participants in project activities who report increased opportunity to play an active role in planning and implementation of the project supported activities.

Female respondents were asked whether they had experienced increased opportunities to play an active role in planning and implementation of project supported activities during the life of the program. Table 30 outlines this data. At the time of the endline, 51.5% of female respondents reported some level of increased opportunity.

Table 30. Increased opportunity for women to plan and implement project activities.

Opportunity	Midline	Endline
NO, nothing has changed	55.4%	48.5%
YES, but I am only active in project implementation	20.5%	20.4%
YES, opportunities changed, but I am not more active	4.8%	14.4%
YES – I am active in both planning and implementation	16.9%	13.2%
YES, but I only am active in planning	2.4%	3.6%

- 2.3.1.B % of people with a disability who are participants in project activities who report increased opportunity to play an active role in planning and implementation of the project supported activities.

Respondents with a disability were also asked whether they had experienced increased opportunities to play an active role in planning and implementation of project supported activities

during the life of the program. In total, 66.7% of respondent people with a disability felt that their opportunities had improved in some way.

Table 31. Increased opportunities for people with disabilities to plan and influence program activities.

Opportunity	Midline	Endline
YES – I am active in both planning and implementation	44.2%	22.2%
YES, opportunities changed, but I am not more active	3.9%	22.2%
YES, but I am only active in project implementation	7.8%	11.1%
YES, but I only am active in planning	3.9%	11.1%
NO, nothing has changed	43.3%	33.3%

- **Objective 3 Vulnerable rural women, men and people with a disability are able to influence local and national decision making process that impact on their livelihood and food security**

Targets	Results
75% M, 50% W ‘confident’ or ‘very confident’	42.9%M, 33.3% W ‘confident’ or ‘very confident’ for policy
	85.7%M, 50%W ‘confident’ or ‘very confident’ for community decision making

Haforsa saw improvements and achieved its targets for the % of Men and Women’s confidence levels to participate in community decision making processes. For confidence to participate in discussions on public policy, the targets were not achieved, with a slight decrease in confidence among women and a 18.5% increase among men in this category. Note that baseline and midline figures are based on the whole samples from those surveys, and that the endline figures are based on KSI and MDI areas only. Respondents from this subsample (n=13) came from 3 aldeias (see limitations section.) These results are outlined in Table 32 and Table 33 below.

- 3.A % of target men, women and people with a disability that report increased confidence in engaging in decision /policy making processes (KSI, MDI, RHTO areas only)

Table 32. Confidence level to participate in public policy discussions (endline: MDI and KSI areas only n=13).

Confidence level	Baseline	Midline	Endline		Endline		
	%	%	#	%	W	M	People with a disability
Very confident	4.5%	4.1%	2	15.4%	-	28.6%	-
Confident	37.3%	20.3%	3	23.1%	33.3%	14.3%	-
A bit confident			1	7.7%	16.7%	-	-
Not confident/Don't know			7	53.8%	50.0%	57.1%	-
Total			13	100.0%			

Table 33. Confidence level to participate in community decision processes (endline: MDI and KSI areas only n=13).

Confidence level	Baseline	Midline	Endline		Endline		
	%	%	#	%	W	M	People with a

					disability		
Very confident	6.6%	7.4%	2	15.4%	-	28.6%	-
Confident	47.0%	40.4%	7	53.8%	50.0%	57.1%	-
Halfway confident			2	15.4%	16.7%	14.3%	-
Not confident/Don't know			2	15.4%	33.3%	-	-
Total			13	100.0%			

- Outcome 3.1: Government departments or programs incorporate the priorities of vulnerable community members into policies and guidelines

Results measured by individual indicators below.

- 3.1.A Evidence of decision making process at national level which involved affected community members (KSI, MDI & RHTO)
- 3.1.B Evidence of decisions at the local and/or national level that have incorporated the perspectives/issue of vulnerable men and women (KSI, MDI & RHTO)
 - MDI has published and shared community findings from the monitoring process of the PNDS (National Program for Village Development) and PDIM (Integrated Municipal Development Planning). The outcome of workshops and associated meetings included both the Municipal Administrator of Covalima and Regional Administrator of Oecusse instigated follow up actions on issues raised in the monitoring. These activities assisted community members in 8 villages to identify their priority issues: retaining wall, irrigation, clean water, road and rehabilitation for school building and proposed them to the PNDS coordinators in Oecusse and Covalima. As a result of these activities the PNDS Coordinators in Covalima and Oecusse has decided to put more attention on these issues in the next PNDS program.
 - MDI and RHTO was able to influence to the Ministry of State Administration and Ministry of Planning And Strategic Investment to review the Construction Manual from PNDS which was not inclusive of access for people with adisability and in 2016-2017 the two ministries reviewed this accordingly with MDI and RHTO suggestions. Now the PNDS Construction Manual includes consideration of access for people with disabilities.
 - Oxfam has launched and disseminated agriculture assessment and economic diversification reports to the Ministry of Agriculture, The Ministry of Legislative Reform and Parliamentary Affairs, National Parliament members, and academic institutions. During the launch of the Economic Diversification Report, the government representative who launched the report, the Minister for Legislative Reform and Parliamentary Affairs, also Acting Minister of Commerce, Industry, Tourism and Environment, Fidelis Magalhaes made positive signs in relation to commitment to the importance of developing productive sectors with a focus on diversifying the economy.
 - Haforsa resources supported a TV talk show on Economic Diversification on May 2020 to influence local and national decision-making processes; specifically for MAF to invest in agriculture and non-oil sectors that can contribute to community livelihoods and food security.
 - MDI hosted a live talk show on Timor-Leste Television and Televisao Educasaun to talk about the community findings on implementation processes of PDIM and PNDS in Covalima and Oecusse. Speakers in the panel included representatives of government and NGOs. Government representatives reported acceptance of the findings from the community monitoring groups and willingness to work with MDI to receive further feedback from communities on government programs.

- Qualitative data collected during the endline survey also found instances of MAF extension support at the local level.

- Output 3.1.1: Increased capacity of communities to understand, monitor and feedback on government services, from a rights-based perspective, in order to influence government policies and practices related to food and livelihood security

Results measured by individual indicators below and in Annex 1

- 3.1.1.A # of men, women and people with a disability trained on:
 - Rights and community mobilization
 - Social accountability tools
 - Objectives, priorities and approaches of key government programs
 - Feedback and complaints mechanisms (KSI, MDI, RHTO areas only)
- 3.1.1.B # of targeted men, women and people with a disability who report an increase in their understanding and confidence to use social accountability mechanism (KSI, MDI, RHTO areas only)

A total of 474 beneficiaries were trained on the topics under indicator 3.1.1A. No data on indicator 3.1.1B was available. This was intended to have come from post tests from the relevant trainings. Available data under this output is in Table 38 in Annex 1.

- 3.1.1.C # of community leaders (men and women) who have increased awareness of existing systems and practices to influence decision making at the municipal and national levels (KSI, MDI, RHTO areas only)

Quantitative data for this indicator was not available but some examples were found in program documentation. A Community Base Monitoring Group (CBMG) and community leaders in Covalima participated in a press conferences and invited the National TV (TVTL), National Radio (RTTL) and the Cova Taroman Radio (Community Radio in Covalima). In the press release they raised the issues of water drilling problems in Casabauk. The responsible company for this project had failed to implement the project and therefore the CBMG raised this issue through a press release and submitted a petition to the PNDS Coordinator in Covalima and the Covalima Municipal Administrator. As a result of this the PNDS coordinator and the Covalima Municipal Administrator have said they are committed to follow up with the company to resolve the issue.

- Output 3.1.2: Communities and CSOs trained and supported to develop a strong evidence base to campaign and advocate for change linked to policies and practices that support and enhance the achievement of food and livelihood security

Results measured by individual indicators below.

- 3.1.2.A # of research reports and policy submissions developed and submitted (KSI, MDI, RHTO areas only)

See list of activities under indicator 3.1B.

- 3.1.2.B Evidence of research findings utilized to influence target government policies and practices

See list of activities under indicator 3.1B

- Outcome 3.2: The quality of government services provided to communities improves
 - 3.2.A Evidence from the field on improved quality of government services

No data available. Focus group discussions during the endline survey recorded instances in which government services had been received by communities. For example, support from suco extension officers was mentioned in both Suai and Oecusse, as well as a workshop on monitoring PNDS implementation.

- Output 3.2.1 Targeted government staff and service providers are informed and trained on the techniques introduced through the Haforsa program

Results measured by individual indicators below.

- 3.2.1.A Targeted government staff and service providers are informed and trained on the techniques introduced through the Haforsa program

MEL data records 120 incidences under this indicator but no further data is available.

- 3.2.1.B # of community leaders within target area who report an increase in the frequency and quality of support provided by government staff and service providers

No data available.

Objective 4: To effectively manage partnerships with local NGOs following Oxfam’s partnership principles adding value to the relationship for effective program implementation

Results measured by individual indicators below.

- 4.A Evidence that Oxfam and partners are following partnership principles and that opportunities exist for feedback and improvement on this process.

In key informant interviews, partners acknowledged improvements made in 2019 to reporting processes and requirements and the scheduling of Oxfam staff visits. This was in response to their feedback to Oxfam about these processes.

- Output 4.1: Partners trained on priority areas identified in their capacity building plans, PCAs, appraisal and proposal about organizational development

Targets	Results
4.1.A.1 2 trainings	2 trainings
4.1.A.2 2 trainings	2 trainings
4.1.B. target not updated	9 trainings
4.1.B.1 target not updated	10 partners
4.1.B.2 9 partners	5 partners

- 4.1.A # of partner staff who participate in trainings delivered/supported by Oxfam
- 4.1.B % of partners reporting changes in progress on prioritised capacity development areas identified in Partner Capacity Assessments

In total, 153 partner staff participated in trainings delivered or supported by Oxfam, though the available data does not match the disaggregated figures. Four trainings were conducted on Oxfam Gender policy, value for money, and fraud prevention, and also 4 on finance manual and HR policy. Ten partners were reported to be utilising new paper and excel based MEL tools, and 5 were implementing their disability plan. On the latter point, qualitative data confirmed the use of these plans and was a point of pride among partner staff. Available data under this output is in Table 39 in Annex 1.

- Output 4.2: Mutual learning between Oxfam and partners influences the approaches used in the program

Results measured by the individual indicators below and in Annex 1
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- 4.2.A % partners attending annual reflection workshops
- 4.2.B And # of people attending annual reflection workshops
- 4.2.C # of joint monitoring processes undertaken
- 4.2.D # of women, men and people with a disability who participate in joint monitoring
- 4.2.E Evidence that Oxfam and partners are feeding back information on the program to communities

Table 40 **Error! Reference source not found.** in Annex 1 outlines available data on the indicators under output 4.2. Nine partners were reported to have attended annual reflection workshops, with 43 people recorded as attendees under indicator 4.2B. Four joint monitoring processes were recorded, with 109 participants taking part in this activity. Finally, no quantitative evidence that Oxfam and partners are feeding back information on the program to communities had been recorded. From qualitative data collection, partners reported instances of Oxfam responding to their feedback, particularly around reporting requirements and the process for organizing field visits. Partners were satisfied with the outcomes of the feedback process, and reported an improved relationship with the Oxfam Dili office.

2. Impact

Haforsa was a program with diverse activities in technical agriculture, postharvest technologies, market development, influencing, and resilience; and cross cutting issues such as gender and inclusion, advocacy, and partner development. As such, monitoring and evaluation was a difficult task. Furthermore, despite the many benefits and positive attributes of Oxfam's partnership model, one drawback is that program managers and the MEL team are one additional step removed from the implementation of program activities and responsibilities for collecting, organizing, and storing MEL data is dispersed across a wide range of individuals and organizations. Changes in indicators during the Haforsa implementation period, designed to make documenting program achievements easier were not always reflected in data collection and cataloguing processes. For example, several indicators under objective 3 were changed to measure the number of participants engaging in activities, but no data could be supplied for some of these indicators. The result is a likelihood that some program impacts were not documented. The need for better on-going monitoring documentation led to one of the key recommendations in the Haforsa MTR: *"The regular monitoring activities can be made easy by using tablets. The use of a tablet can become a daily activity for partners with different templates. The possibilities are endless"* (noting that sufficient time and on-going training support is required for staff unfamiliar with using tablets to use them competently).

To document the impacts of agricultural activities, programs monitoring agricultural production will obtain more accurate results by measuring yields at the time of harvest. Asking farmers to recall production from up to 12 months ago, in complicated or unfamiliar units and where records are seldom kept, is likely to result in a high incidence of errors. The design of the baseline survey, repeated in the midline and endline, made all possible allowances for these difficulties but both the

baseline report and midterm evaluation recommended ongoing monitoring of yields at the time of harvest.

Numerous specific examples of impacts from Haforsa were discovered in FGDs and KIIs. Beneficiaries processing palm sugar in Oecusse, for example, reported that demand regularly outstripped supply for their product and that they could earn up to \$9.00/day from this activity. The start-up funds for making palm sugar had come from a SfC group loan, and many other FGD participants had stories of how their loans had improved their lives. Some group members used their loans to pay for their children's education, including one who had sent her child to university. Others used savings or loans to purchase food during times of low/no income throughout the year, and several beneficiaries proudly referred to major assets they had bought with money from the group. In terms of the perception of FGD participants, Saving for Change groups clearly represent the most significant impact of the Haforsa program.

The impact of agricultural activities was less clear. While the increase in production was likely a driver of the significant increases in food security achieved by Haforsa, FGD participants were less enthusiastic about these activities. Impacts stemming from the marketing of agricultural products were particularly difficult to identify, with no FGD or KII respondent being able to produce an example of sustained sales. The most significant examples of marketing the evaluators could find were instances where produce was sold once or a handful of times. The lack of consistent and sustained sales among program beneficiaries indicates that the marketing initiatives undertaken during Haforsa did not have the intended impact. Instances where sales were made included a MANEO watermelon group that sold \$567 worth of watermelons in 2019, and beneficiaries who sold small quantities of horticultural crops in their local markets.

Influencing activities could have contributed to better marketing opportunities, though initiatives in this area were hampered by the changing political landscape in the second half of Haforsa implementation. The design and planning stages of Haforsa focused heavily on improved production and storage techniques designed to allow farmers to sell their excess crops to the Government '*Merenda Eskolar*' (School Feeding Program). The School Feeding Program in Oe-cusse began its pilot phase in 2017, supporting children in 7 Oe-cusse schools with a reduced budget of \$0.25/child/day (half of the amount allocated in municipalities where the program is fully implemented). Some Haforsa farmers sold produce to the program, though others report that this was only possible for households taking part in specially-formed groups. As Haforsa implementation came to an end in June 2020, the School Feeding Program had not moved beyond its original pilot phase or budget, and therefore represented only a small market accessible to a handful of Haforsa working areas. As the key market that Haforsa was meant to supply, this was a missed opportunity to influence government policy to maximize program outcomes, as well as a lesson on how influencing work could produce greater outcomes than traditional livelihood programming. Had Haforsa been able to influence government to expand this important program, children in numerous additional schools would have benefitted and the economic benefits from this market would have flowed both to and beyond Haforsa beneficiaries. KSI and MDI areas where specific activities on influencing took place, covering 912 beneficiaries, showed some changes in beneficiaries' mind-sets around influencing.

3. Efficiency

Haforsa expenditure at the end of the project was \$482.47/beneficiary. The synergy with other concurrent programs such as IMPACT⁴ and the CCA focused *Improving Land and Water Management to Reduce Impacts of Climate Change on Communities* program increased the efficiency of the Haforsa project by combining project resources for the benefit of participants. Examples of this include Haforsa's ROMANSA groups acting as investment opportunities for IMPACT commercial farmers, and efficient use of Oxfam staff time, offices, and logistics resources since the two projects had overlapping implementation areas.

4. Sustainability

Sustainability here refers to the degree to which program outcomes can be sustained beyond the life of Haforsa, which concluded in June 2020. Oxfam's partnership model ensures that knowledge gained during Haforsa will stay in the target communities beyond the end of the program. Concurrent and future programs will work with many of the same partners and some Haforsa activities will continue under these programs. Savings and loan groups have been shown to be a highly sustainable approach in Timor-Leste and the evaluators are aware of groups that have been operating for over 10 years and have assets in the tens of thousands of dollars. All indications are that SfC groups will have this level of sustainability. Interest and motivation remains high, and participants in these groups recognize their benefits. Many SfC groups started under Haforsa have already reached a 'graduation' where they are deemed to be capable of sustaining themselves with no further input. Some of these graduated groups participate in other Oxfam supported activities, and others could be revisited in future programs as a base on which to build additional livelihood activities.

The promotion of MAF released maize and mung bean varieties bolsters the sustainability of the food security outcomes achieved by Haforsa. Seed stock from the produce of these crops can be replanted each year, maintaining the high yields and resultant food security. Replacement seed is widely available from community seed producer groups, and neighbours often share seed in their communities.

The positive inclusion outcomes from Haforsa, particularly for people with disabilities, are likely to have a continued affect in targeted communities. Among Haforsa partners in particular, many interviewees expressed a change of mind-set around inclusion, and also described positive changes in community practices. A more inclusive civil society presence in communities will continue to provide opportunities for people with a disability in the future.

In relation to gender, all Haforsa partners were trained in applying Oxfam's Gender Action Learning System (GALS). GALS is a "community-led empowerment methodology that uses principles of inclusion to improve income, food and nutrition security of vulnerable people in a gender-equitable way" (Page 7, [GALS Practical Guide](#)). Three partners have also piloted the GALS training with 45 Haforsa participants, and a learning visit to Laos was conducted to learn about how the training is implemented. Incorporating gender inclusion in value chain work is a sound strategy for women's economic empowerment, and has already strongly informed the development of the upcoming *Hakbi'it* program. Examples throughout the program show the successes in women's leadership in

⁴ Oxfam New Zealand's Improving Marketing and Production through Agricultural Cooperatives in Timor-Leste (*IMPACT*) project (phase 2) was implemented from July 2016 to December 2019 with the high-level outcome to have "improved food and income security for Timorese families in five municipalities". The project was designed to build synergies with Haforsa.

Haforsa, and women's participation in terms of the numbers of women involved in Haforsa was notable. Diverse examples of women's leadership show that progress has been made, but instances were also mentioned of women feeling disempowered when men were present in groups and of tokenism in some women's leadership forums. An opportunity exists for future programming to bring together existing and undiscovered women leaders through information-sharing activities, leadership retreats and other platforms to consolidate and build upon women's leadership beyond these individual examples.

5. Relevance

Relevance refer to the degree to which Haforsa has responded to farmer's key priorities and addressed the specific needs and priorities of women and marginalised groups. As mentioned above, Saving for Change groups were highly regarded by program beneficiaries and addressed areas such as resilience, food security, and in some instances, entrepreneurship. Further to this, interviews for 'Lessons from the Field' Haforsa learning document, revealed that some of the most significant gender inclusion impacts came from SfC groups. Respondents related instances where Saving for Change were rare opportunities for women to take leadership positions in their communities, and that this had a follow-on effect of women feeling empowered to contribute to other community decision making processes. In light of the numerous benefits and high level of beneficiary interest, the evaluation recommends that support for Saving for Change groups be continued and incorporated in future programming. A greater focus in future on promoting investment and entrepreneurial use of loans should be seen as an opportunity, rather than a shortcoming of Haforsa or other past programs. Opportunities also exist to better document the impact of Saving for Change groups, with quantitative indicators such as the total amount of money saved and lent in groups (likely a substantial figure), attendance statistics from group records (which demonstrates the cohesion and stamina of groups), and improved documentation of women's leadership outcomes.

The evaluators observed, and also noted in KIIs with Oxfam staff, a certain level of fatigue among both partners and beneficiaries for some activities, particularly around agriculture. One effect of this was that many partners had difficulty articulating the successes of the program, referring instead to the same few examples across questions on diverse program areas. With some activities having been implemented throughout Haforsa, the prior Community Led Rural Development Program (CLRDP), and previous programs, a reassessment of which activities should be included in future programming could help to reenergize partners and result in more vibrant programming. Annual reflection workshops are an opportunity to do this, and if adeptly facilitated could yield innovative results.

A major contributing factor to the drop in production of horticultural crops and return to subsistence-level production seen in the endline survey was water availability. In FGDs with program beneficiaries and interviews with partner field staff, lack of water for irrigation was the most commonly mentioned reason for the reduction or cessation of commercial production. Staple field crops are also affected by unpredictable rainfall patterns, but sustained horticultural production requires a ready water source to supply an adequately sized area if production is to move beyond household consumption levels. Parameters such as water availability are critical for site selection of commercial horticultural production if the activity is to be relevant to participants. While commercial level production was not achieved by most participants, many continued to grow the target crops and improvements in food security were substantial. The improved agricultural technologies promoted by Haforsa (e.g. permanent gardens and organic fertilizer.) seem well suited to food security outcomes for subsistence farmers.



Sign for a Permanent Garden facilitated by Mata Dalan Institute in Suku Lalisuk Oecusse / Pedro Audilio Mendonça

Haforsa's work with inclusion of people with disabilities, particularly in the later years of the program, showed relevance to beneficiaries in both the quantitative and qualitative components of the assessment. Though the number of people with disabilities participating in the program did not reach the target, several partner staff provided positive feedback and specific examples of successes around inclusion during interviews. It should be noted that this approach follows a common timeframe in shifting to disability inclusive work – first few years are focused on sensitizing and socializing organisations and supporting them to think about how to implement disability inclusion processes – then it usually is only post this – a few years later that you start seeing disability inclusion in practice at community levels and then a year or two later increased participation or persons with disabilities – so the timeframe that partners are on is in line with international practice.

In particular, the support of RHTO was noted as an effective and beneficial activity. Confidence about whether people with a disability can influence decisions in their communities rose by 6.4% during the program (and by 11.7% in KSI/MDI areas), substantially more than when the same question was asked about women's influence. Partners expressed pride in having updated their organizational policies and procedures to be more inclusive, and several articulated a change in their views about how people with disabilities could be included in their programs.

The relevance of Haforsa's influencing work was mostly limited to the local level, with examples such as securing MAF extension agent support. A workshop was held on monitoring PNDS processes and a committee established on water issues in Covalima, but an opportunity was missed to influence municipal and national level government to support the program's marketing initiatives. Influencing work toward the expansion of the School Feeding Program, improvements in marketplace safety,

better market infrastructure, policies to promote local produce over imports, etc. could have improved the program's marketing outcomes.

6. Additional key questions

As specified in the Terms of Reference (TOR) for this evaluation, a series of key questions were used to guide the study under the cross-cutting themes of 'gender and inclusion, influencing, and partnerships. In relation to gender and inclusion, Haforsa contributed to several unrelated examples of women's leadership, especially linked to SfC groups (confirming findings from Lessons in the Field Case Study 2). **Gender inclusion** successes primarily took the form of women's leadership, of which there were several examples identified through FGDs and KIIs. These examples included:

- ✓ 74% of all SfC groups are led by women
- ✓ 5 of 7 Maneo Saving for Change groups are led by women (up from 2 women-led groups at the start of the program).
- ✓ 33 of 52 BIFANO Saving for Change groups are led by women.
- ✓ In 2018 a 'permanent garden' competition in Cutete (a BIFANO-supported area) was won by a woman who also engaged with people with disabilities to be involved in agriculture.
- ✓ 24 AFFOS Saving for Change groups are led by women.
- ✓ 3 of 11 CCC Saving for Change and Agriculture groups led by women.
- ✓ A female former *xefe de suku* in Covalima is also the head of a Haforsa farming group and Saving for Change group leads her community's interactions with Oxfam and partners.
- ✓ In Oe-cusse, a female Haforsa group leader also sits on the local suku council.
- ✓ Female facilitators in Oe-cusse community groups shared their technical agriculture training knowledge directly with male MAF extension workers.
- ✓ Domingas and Maria, two women from Oe-cusse, (from partners BIFANO and AFFOS) represented Timor-Leste at a forum in Vanuatu to share their experience and success of Saving for Change groups, particularly whereby their group regulations prohibit use of saved money for traditional cultural ceremonies (*lia moris, lia mate*).

The program has been successful in contributing to the normalization of women's leadership at the community level, providing potential to address (well known) gender power imbalances through Oxfam's WEE work. Specifically, future programming has the opportunity to capitalize on the eagerness and willingness of rural women already involved in SfC groups seeking market opportunities and solutions. To support this programming, the continued application of GALS (noting that Oxfam intends this tool to be an important component of WEE) will be useful in the Timor-Leste context.

The approach by the program to support **disability inclusion** was to engage a Disabled Persons Organisation (DPO) in RHTO. The finding of Lessons in the Field (Case in Point 1) that RHTO's role "was key to creating positive momentum to move community, partner and Oxfam attitudes, behaviours and practice related to people with disabilities." RHTO's work was consistently welcomed by other partners, communities and Oxfam staff, according to FGDs and KIIs. RHTO's involvement has supported change to the extent that communities and partners are now more aware of the importance of disability inclusion and are able to share stories of change where people with disabilities are involved in livelihood activities. It is recommended that Oxfam continue to work with RHTO to promote disability inclusion.

Oxfam's **influencing** work became increasingly important throughout Haforsa and will continue to be a key pillar of its future strategy and programming. Beyond RHTO's work through Oxfam (see Case in Point 1 from *Lessons from the Field*) neither the evaluation nor *Lessons from the Field* found “strong/notable examples of the program supporting vulnerable rural women and men to influence local and national decision making processes that impact their livelihoods and food security”. The idea to integrate SfC and other livelihood approaches into community based monitoring groups by Mata Dalan Institute (MDI) was not articulated nor executed by MDI itself. Multiple opportunities throughout the evaluation process were provided for MDI to share examples of their influencing impact (through FGDs with their target groups beneficiaries who were not available, KIIs during the evaluation, and during the presentation of draft survey findings in Dili on 28 October). Based on beneficiary responses and needs, this approach is not recommended as one to be used with other community influencing groups in other projects. Rather, the effective elements of RHTO's aforementioned approach could be drawn upon by other specialist advocacy NGOs working with Oxfam through *Hakbi'it* and *Hadalan*.

Oxfam's approach to **partnerships** has been characterised by good and 'trust-based' relationships with local partners in Oe-cusse, notably with BIFANO, AFFOS and MANEO. This is evident in the responses of both the partners and the communities to the Haforsa program, as shared through this evaluation and from findings in *Lessons in the Field*. In addition, as identified in the methodology, the strength of these partnerships was also reflected in the evaluation process whereby the evaluators experienced few challenges in ascertaining survey results and information on Haforsa in Oe-cusse. Oxfam staff, both in Dili and in the Oe-cusse office, also express generally positive attitudes about their partnerships and relationships in Oe-cusse. Oxfam's approach to partnerships in Covalima can be characterised as more 'procedural' with contracts and activities being executed without clear understanding by the partners of what Haforsa's purpose was – Covalima partners provided few meaningful accounts of how Haforsa's activities have led to benefits for the communities where they work. This may have resulted in the partnership model here tending to be "hands off" rather than one where Oxfam and partners work in parallel with clearly defined, albeit different roles, to link with communities and other stakeholders e.g. with government to be able to influence better policy. These observations were consistent with both the evaluation process in Covalima (which was unable to locate sufficient beneficiary numbers in some areas) and the minimal qualitative information gained through FGDs with beneficiary groups and KIIs with partners and other stakeholders.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Focus influencing work in future livelihood programming toward the expansion of the School Feeding Program, improvements in marketplace safety, better market infrastructure, and policies to promote local produce over imports.
2. Reassess which activities included in future programming could help to re-energize partners and result in more vibrant programming, particularly in agriculture. Annual reflection workshops offer an opportunity to do this.
3. Reduce reliance on recollection-based data and increase ongoing and timely documentation of program results, especially for agricultural and financial parameters.
4. Utilize readily available technology such as tablets and cloud-based data storage to collect and store MEL data from the start of new programs.
5. Take advantage of Oxfam's relations with local partners and communities, especially in Oe-cusse, to amplify influencing impacts in upcoming programming.

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6. Capitalize on the success of SfC groups by continuing to work with them, with a focus on maximizing economic benefits through entrepreneurship and livelihood investment activities.
7. Provide coaching and mentoring for Oxfam and partner staff to articulate their successes through storytelling and qualitative MEL approaches.

This evaluation report has been prepared by Joseph Freach, Mark Peter Notaras and Josh Fernandes. All enquiries can be emailed to joe.freach@runbox.com.

Annex 1. Additional program data

Table 34. Output 1.1.1 indicators

HAFORSA-Indicators	W	M	People with a disability	Total	Target	% achieved (vs. target)
1.1.1.A # Female, male and people with disability participated in each training	5,556	5,573	62	11,191	6,024	186%
1.1.1.B # participants (female, male and people with disability) apply the technique	2,264	1,434	17	3,715	N/A	N/A
1.1.1.B.1 # of Female, male and people with disability participated in training on Designing, Developing and maintaining a permanent garden	1,491	1,968	19	3,478	1,928	180%
1.1.1.B.2 # of Female, male and people with disability participated in training on agricultural techniques including Sloping Agricultural Land Technique, System of Rice Intensification, Composting	2,499	2,246	36	4,781	2,756	173%
1.1.1.B.3 # of Female, male and people with disability participated in training on food processing, Post-harvest techniques	415	290	-	705	700	101%
1.1.1.B.4 # of Female, male and people with disability participated in Training on Develop seed bank	798	654	4	1,456	390	373%

1.1.1.B.5 # of Cross visit between Permanent Gardens and vegetable groups to share good practice	130	180	0	4	4	100%
1.1.1.B.6 # of Female, male and people with disability participated in training on livestock	353	415	3	771	N/A	N/A

Table 35. Output 2.1.1 indicators

Outcome & Output	W	M	People with a disability	Total	Target	% achieved (vs. target)
2.1.1.A. # of communities with community action plans AND % of target communities with Community action plans	n/a	n/a	-	39	n/a	n/a
2.1.1.B. # of new community action plans developed	n/a	n/a	-	10	n/a	n/a
2.1.1.C. # of community action plan established which are revised periodically	n/a	n/a	-	9	10	90%
2.1.1.D. # of men, women and people with a disability to participate in development community	1,461	1,699	4	3,164	3,000	105%

action plans						
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Table 36. Output 2.1.2 indicators

Outcome & Output	W	M	People with a disability	Total	Target	% achieved (vs. target)
2.1.2.A. # of Tara Bandu regulations developed # updated	n/a	n/a	n/a	35	n/a	n/a
2.1.2.B. # of early warning systems established and utilized by communities in target area	n/a	n/a	n/a	4	n/a	n/a

Table 37. Output 2.2.1 indicators

Outcome & Output	W	M	People with a disability	Total	Target	% achieved (vs. target)
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2.2.1.A.# of men, women and people with a disability trained on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate change and disaster risks • Early warning systems • Water source conservation • Soil and moisture management 	1,613	1,524	3	3,140	n/a	n/a
2.2.1.B. # of men, women and people with a disability who apply the techniques: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water source conservation • Soil and moisture management 	1,324	1,324	4	2,652	n/a	n/a

Table 38. Output 3.1.1 indicators

	M	W	People with a disability	Total	Target	% achieved (vs. target)
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<p>3.1.1.A.# of men, women and people with a disability trained on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rights and community mobilization • Social accountability tools • Objectives, priorities and approaches of key government programs • Feedback and complaints mechanisms (KSI, MDI, RHTO areas only) 	152	321	1	474	N/A	N/A
<p>3.1.1.B.# of targeted men, women and people with a disability who report an increase in their understanding and confidence to use social accountability mechanism (KSI, MDI, RHTO areas only)</p>	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table 39. Output 4.1 indicators⁵

	W	M	People with a	Total	Target	% achieved
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⁵ Inconsistent figures are acknowledged at the beginning of this section.

			disability			(vs. target)
4.1.A.# of partner staff who participate in trainings delivered/supported by Oxfam	43	121	4	153	n/a	n/a
4.1.A.1 Two trainings provided to nine partners on Oxfam Gender policy, value for money, and fraud prevention	n/a	n/a	0	4	2	200%
4.1.A.2 Two refresher trainings on finance manual and HR policy conducted.	7	27	3	4	2	200%
4.1.B. % of partners reporting changes in progress on prioritised capacity development areas identified in Partner Capacity Assessments	n/a	n/a	n/a	9	9	100%
4.1.B.1 Nine partners and Oxfam utilise new paper and excel based MEL tools	n/a	n/a	0	10	9	111%
4.1.B.2 9 partners have and are implementing their Disability Inclusion action plan	n/a	n/a	0	5	9	56%

Table 40. Output 4.2 indicators

	W	M	People with a disability	Total	Target	% achieved (vs. target)
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4.2.A % partners attending annual reflection workshop	n/a	n/a	n/a	9	9	100%
4.2.B.# of people attending annual reflection workshops	6	33	4	43	n/a	n/a
4.2.C. # of joint monitoring processes undertaken	n/a	n/a	n/a	4	5	90%
4.2.D. # of women, men and people with a disability who participate in joint monitoring	41	58	10	109	n/a	n/a
4.2.E. Evidence that Oxfam and partners are feeding back information on the program to communities	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

ANNEX 2. List of Interviewees

INTERVIEWEE	POSITION	ORGANISATION	DATE(S)
Kathy Richards	Country Director	Oxfam in Timor-Leste	3 July
Cris Caetano	Senior Program Manager	Oxfam in Timor-Leste	13 July
Annie Sloman	Business Development and Program Director	Oxfam in Timor-Leste	13 July,
Aniceto Neves	Program officer	Oxfam in Timor-Leste	2 July
Joao Corbafo	Program officer/ resilience program	Oxfam in Timor-Leste	9 July
James Riturban	Portfolio manager	OAU	3 July
Luke Simmons	Senior Sector Specialist – Agriculture	DFAT, Canberra	2 July
Ule Viana	Rural Development Section	Australian Embassy	24 July
Jacinto Mala	Director	BIFANO	16 July
Joao Kefi	Field Officer	BIFANO	16 July
Paulus Siki	Field Staff and former director	FFSO	21 July
Marcus Oki	Field Staff	FFSO	20 July
Joao Amaral	Program Manager	CCC	23 July
Ramila	Director	MANEO	17 July
Mateus	Field Staff	MANEO	22 July
David Nunes	Program Officer	KSI	22 July
Estevanus Coli	Director	MDI	21 July
Carolino Marques	Program Officer	MDI	14 July
Paulus Neves	Program Manager Haforsa, AHP	RHTO	13 July
Salina Hanjan	Gender and Inclusion Coordinator	Oxfam in Timor-Leste	13 July
Matias	Oxfam MEL Officer	Oxfam in Timor-Leste	2 July
Jeferino Amaral Guterres	Covalima Municipal Director	Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries	7 Sep
Martinho Julio Barreto Alves	Village Chief	Suco Lour	7 Sep
David Nunes	Program Officer	KSI	9 Sep
Sirilio Baba	Oecusse Director	Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries	18 Sep
Annie Sloman	Business Development and Program Director	Oxfam in Timor-Leste	30 September
Cris Caetano	Senior Program Manager	Oxfam in Timor-Leste	30 September
Oxfam in Timor-Leste and partner representatives	Haforsa managers and partner managers	Oxfam in Timor-Leste	28 October

ANNEX 3. List of Focus Group Discussions

GROUP	LOCATION	No. of Attendees	DATE
Betitir Buka Rasik	Lour, Oebaba	23	7 Sep
Haburas Tula, Bitis and Halal	Lalawa	9	9 Sep
Tabaina Monik, Kiunaek, Moris Hasolok and Esperansa Familia	Oebaha	14	14 Sep
Nun'ana, Eleho, Bikune, Huma-Huma and Kamalome	Nianapu	10	15 Sep
Madfut, Halibur Hadomi Malu, Moris Hamutuk Lao To'ok and Fitun Naroman	Sonamnasi	12	16 Sep
Oclana Kosarben, Tafenab, Meup Hetmun	Kuatete	11	17 Sep
Baibor, Noeninan, Kian Nosolu, Nusak Pasinat and Kolam Ikan	Suniufe	20	18 Sep

ANNEX 4. REFERENCES

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Haforsa Baseline Survey Final Report.

Haforsa Midline Survey Final Report.

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IMPACT Endline Survey Final Report, 2020.

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Timor-Leste Food and Nutrition Survey 2013, Ministry of Health, RDTL.

Timor-Leste Household Income and Expenditure Survey 2011, Ministry of Finance, RDTL.

Timor-Leste Rapid Food Security Assessment 2020, Ministry of Agriculture, RDTL.

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Annex 5. FGD questions

Haforsa final evaluation FGD questions (farmers' groups)

- ✓ Begin by informing participants that their participation and responses are voluntary.
 - ✓ Ask permission to collect their names on the attendance sheet.
 - ✓ Inform them that their names will not be used when reporting on their responses.
 - ✓ Remind them that there are no correct responses.
 - ✓ Rather we are interested in their personal and collective experiences of the Haforsa project.
1. How satisfied are you with the functioning of your cooperative / farmers' group?
 - a. What functions does it serve?
 - b. How has it improved during Haforsa?
 2. Does your group market crops collectively? (for example, bringing individuals crops together to sell at one time or growing a crop together, selling it all, and then dividing up the money)
 - a. If yes, how does the process work? How many times have you marketed collectively? Was it successful?
 - b. If no, why not? What keeps your group from marketing together? What could a future program do to make collective marketing work in a group?
 3. What materials does your group share? (hand tractors? tools? seeds? water systems? land?)
 - a. What works well in sharing materials? Are there disagreements over who uses these things?
 4. How do Oxfam and/or partner staff keep you informed about the program? (e.g. through what forms of communication – by phone, or face to face only? How often do you hear from them?)
 - a. Do you feel like you understand the program?
 - b. Have you had any influence on the program? (examples: Have you asked for help or assistance that the program provided? Have you suggested any changes to the program?) Tell us about these examples.
 5. Has the program helped you to get any government support, or to understand what the government is doing?
 - a. If yes, what support have you received from the government as a result of Haforsa?

- b. How has the program helped you to influence the government?
6. How do women participate in the program?
 - a. Has this changed since the time before the program?
 - b. What are there program activities that women most actively participate in?
 - c. What are barriers to women's participation?
 7. What are the changes in the lives of women or people with disabilities as a result of program activities?
 - a. What helped increase the confidence of women to participate in program activities?
 - b. What helped increase the confidence of people with disabilities to participate in program activities?
 8. Did your farmer's group participate in Permanent Gardens?
 - a. If yes, what are the main benefits of Permanent Gardens? What techniques did you learn? How much did the garden produce? Did you or anyone in the group sell any of this produce?
 9. Did you participate in a Community Action Plan (CAP) process?
 - a. If yes, VALUE BAROMETER ACTIVITY
 - i. How beneficial was the CAP to your community?
 - ii. How much of the CAP was actually implemented?
- Can you describe any activities from the CAP that were implemented?