

Project Update

Food Security Project Railaco, Timor-Leste



Planting trees helps to preserve the bee population.



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Overview

Pilgrims 100 members in 2024 supported Jesuit Mission's partnership with Jesuit Social Service (JSS) in Timor-Leste to combat food insecurity. This initiative directly addresses the findings of the **2024 Food Security Assessment**, which reported that **27% of the Timorese population** suffers from high levels of acute food insecurity.

Project Overview

Running from 2022 to December 2025, this pilot project focuses on three villages—Suku Matata, Maukilormata, and Hlalmeta—that are particularly affected by food insecurity. The main goal is to **empower communities** to lead their own agricultural development and establish secure food sources. The project aims to build the **skills, knowledge, and resources** of local community members so they can sustainably produce their own food. Additionally, it educates them on nutrition to help combat illness and malnutrition, which are especially prevalent among children.

The impact of your gift in 2024

Community and Household Impact

- **1,016** people have participated in the program, including 16 individuals with disabilities in Hlalmeta village.
- **159** households have benefited from project activities.
- **34 students** at the NOSSEF boy's dormitory have received fresh produce from their own vegetable garden and learned how to make organic fertilizers.

Sustainable Agriculture and Training

- **1,200 trees** have been planted around water sources to support agriculture.
- **92 farmers** participated in training programs to improve their farming practices and long-term food security.
- The community in Hlalmeta successfully identified 7 new water sources to support farming.
- Workshops have increased understanding of the importance of bees to the local ecosystem.

Economic and Nutritional Improvements

- Villagers are consuming more vegetables, leading to **improved nutritional intake**.
- The **vegetable harvest has increased** in the villages of Suku Matata, Maukilormata, and Hlalmeta.
- Residents have **generated income** by selling their surplus produce in local markets.
- Villagers received **financial management training** to help sustain agricultural production and better manage household finances.
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In addition to eating more nutritious foods villagers are earning additional income by selling surplus produce.



Residents from the village of Maukilormata participated in three workshops and learnt about conservation and protecting the bee population.

With Thanks

*Through the generous support of Pilgrims 100 members 1016 villagers are acquiring the skills and knowledge to produce their own food, improve their nutrition, and generate income. You have directly helped **uplift** these communities, honoring their dignity and fostering a sustainable path toward food security.*

Your commitment and compassion for the people of Timor-Leste is helping to prevent malnutrition in these villages. Thank you.