



Devia, aged nine, washes her hands outside her family's new toilet. Photo: Jaime dos Reis/World Vision

BAUCAU WATER FOR FUTURE PROJECT

EVALUATION SUMMARY

TIMOR-LESTE

GOAL: Healthier children and families in Baucau Municipality

LOCATION: 12 *aldeia* (sub-village) in eight *suco* (village) in Baucau Municipality

BENEFICIARIES: 5,077 people (2,475 male and 2,602 female)

DURATION: October 2014 – September 2018

SUPPORTED BY: the New Zealand Aid Programme

CONTEXT

According to the 2010 Timor-Leste census, only 60 percent of the rural population have access to safe drinking water sources, with only 27 percent having access to improved sanitation facilities. In Baucau Municipality, access to safe water is as low as 23.2 percent, while 29.3 percent have access to improved toilets. These low rates contribute to increased health problems, especially in children, such as chronic diarrhoea and poor nutrition. In addition, water presents a limiting factor for increasing higher nutritional value crops for household consumption and sale.

PROJECT APPROACH

Through the design and construction of community water schemes, and community action on sanitation and hygiene incorporating the Community-Led Total Sanitation approach, the project provided safe water for targeted communities, as well as improved sanitation and hygiene. The project developed community capacity by forming Water Facility Management groups to manage the community water schemes, and support community-led health plans.

The project also worked with communities to develop household irrigation schemes and provided appropriate irrigation equipment to support increased crop production and household food security.

Health improvements for Devia's family

Nine-year-old Devia and her family used to walk two kilometres to collect clean water from a spring.

Her mum Jacinta said her five children didn't have enough clean water, which resulted in their poor health and hygiene.

Now, Devia and her family enjoy a healthier lifestyle since World Vision built a public tap near their house, and provided building materials to construct a new toilet at their home, through the Water for Future project.

"My family and I are very pleased, we access clean water only five metres away ... Our health has improved compared to the past," Devia's father Evangelino said.

"Now I can bathe every day, drink boiled water, and wash my hands before eating or after going to the toilet," Devia said.



Ticia, aged seven, Devia, aged nine, and Desia, aged five, enjoy drinking clean water. Photo: Jaime dos Reis/World Vision

KEY OUTCOMES

Increased knowledge of good hygiene, water and sanitation practices

Handwashing practices have improved, although not to the extent expected. The number of households safely disposing of their child's stools increased from 13.6 percent at baseline to 80 percent at evaluation.

↓ **The incidence of diarrhoea in children under five reduced from 29.6 percent at baseline to 12 percent at evaluation.**

Increased household access to safe water

957 households from 12 *aldeia* now have access to a potable water source. Over 90 percent of households are less than five minutes from a water source, compared to 27 percent at baseline. This has significantly reduced the time spent by women and girls collecting water. Nine Water Facility Management groups were established, serving 12 *aldeia*.

↑ **92 percent of households have access to safe piped water, compared to 23 percent at baseline.**

Increased household use of sanitation facilities

812 toilets were constructed. Now 920 households have an improved toilet within 20 metres of their home.

↑ **90 percent of households have a toilet at home, compared to 30 percent at baseline.**

↑ **Eight *aldeia* achieved Open Defecation Free status.**

RECOMMENDATIONS

Food security: Although there were some improvements in food security, the water systems did not have adequate volumes to support small-scale irrigation. World Vision should carefully consider integrating food security outcomes within water and sanitation projects in the future.

Sustainability: World Vision needs to work better with municipal authorities to effectively support Water Facility Management Groups, especially as the water system failure rate in Timor-Leste is up to 50 percent within two years of construction.

Contact us

✉ timor-lete@wvi.org | [f www.timor-lete](https://www.facebook.com/wv.timor-lete) | [Q wvi.org/timor-lete](https://www.wvi.org/timor-lete)

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