

## Gender Equality in the implementation of Multistakeholder Partnerships (MSP) in South-Central Timor District, Indonesia

A GIZ-supported project namely, **“Strengthening Capacities for Policy Planning for the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Indonesia and in The Global South (SDGs SSTC)”** is required by the Indonesia’s partner to show examples of how Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) can accelerate the achievement of development priorities that are contributing to the achievement of SDGs in Indonesia. Global targets, local actions. Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships (MSP) framework as one of the main principles of SDGs is then selected as a method to show the effectiveness of SDGs in applying another principle of SDGs called Leave No One Behind.

District South-Central Timor (TTS) of East Nusa Tenggara province is one of the poorest districts in Indonesia. Extreme poverty and stunting rates there are among the highest. Most of the population there are living in villages as farmers. The local government there believe that if the well-being of the farmers is increased then the extreme poverty and stunting rates would decrease. Cases like domestic violence from husbands to wives and sense of desperation among the wives for the future of their children is high. All because of the inability of the husbands to provide well to their families.

In 2021, in the middle of COVID-19 pandemic, the project then assigned a local NGO namely Krisna Galensya Foundation to build communications with TTS district government on the possibility of facilitating the implementation of MSP there with an objective to improve the well-being of the poor farmers in 40 villages as a pilot SDGs implementation there. Together with a coordinative body namely District Development Planning Body (Bappeda), Krisna Foundation developed a concept on a holistic approach on how to achieve the MSP’s objective. The concept that is mapping the kind of supports

needed by the farmers in horticulture farming value chain then be used to map the potential stakeholders to be involved. Certain state actors, non-state actors, academia, financing institutions, and private sector then identified and contacted to participate in the MSP. Initially, there were only around 14 stakeholders answered the call, but, as time went on, more and more stakeholders participated until now there are already more than 20 stakeholders involved in the MSP and the number of villages is also expanded with additional 20 villages to make total 60 villages that have received supports of the MSP. Total number of farmers who have received support is more than 1750 farming families in which around 41% of the farmers are female farmers.

In the process of increasing the well-being of the poor farmers, various life-changing stories of female farmers emerged. Ms. Ance Sete of Oekefan village in SoE municipality was struggling to finance the study of her children. She could not rely on the money provided by her husband, Mr. Yunus Utu, who was working sporadically. Their monthly income was only around Rp. 500,000,- or EUR 29.54. Many times, she received domestic violence from her husband if she dared to ask for money. She has four children.

Initially, Ms. Ance was just witnessing her neighbours have their income increased after joining a farming group that received support from the MSP. Then, upon recognizing her situation, a member of the MSP encouraged her to participate in the farming group. So, since May 2022, she joined the farming group.

Advises and close supports from various stakeholders were provided to Ms. Ance who is now working on a 20m x 20m land planting vegetables. Now her monthly income has increased to more than Rp. 1,500,000,- or EUR 88.61. She could

support the study of her children. Her first son is now studying at a University in Kupang, a capital of East Nusa Tenggara province, her 2<sup>nd</sup> child is studying at a High School in SoE, a capital of the TTS district, and her 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> children are still at the Elementary School.

More-less similar stories are also testified by Ms. Marce Koli and Ms. Inoreti D. U. Alupa of Tublopo village, Ms. Selvina Tapuin of Oeuban village, Ms. Yublina Misa of Oekefan village, and Ms. Ida Marince Boimau of Nule village. Ms. Tina Betty or usually called as Mama Seno from Supul village is now working on around 2 hectares of land has her monthly income increased substantially to around Rp. 12,000,000,- or EUR 708.84. This shows that if the women are willing to expand their plantation area, there is a guarantee of substantial increase of their income.

Ms. Yumina A. Betty from Supul village has a different story. Since the year 1996, her husband, Mr. Alfons Tapui worked as a Migrant Worker in Malaysia. The family saw this as a way to get out of poverty. On year 2013, her husband upon coming back from Malaysia, spent his capital on agriculture, but at the time the yield was not satisfying. On year 2014, they decided to join a farming group hoping to get supports from the government, but their situation didn't change much. On year 2022, the husband and wife had a thought to go to Malaysia as migrant workers. But luckily, they heard about the MSP and tried again one last time. With comprehensive support of the members of the MSP, now the couple has up to Rp. 7,000,000,- or EUR 411.67 monthly income. Enough to cancel their willing to go to Malaysia as migrant workers.

Since the beginning of the MSP implementation, it has recognized the potential of woman and girls. So, on every occasion, the female farmers are encouraged to participate. Ms. Yesti Tualaka of Lakat village was encouraged to form a woman/girls only farming group

on year 2021. Now, this group has 20 members. Most of the members has monthly income between Rp. 3,000,000,- to Rp. 4,000,000,- or EUR 176.43 to EUR 235.24 that is more-less equal to the monthly salary of Indonesia's public servants grade 2 and 3. A significant increase compare to their situation before receiving support from the MSP.

Usually, the husbands after witnessing their wives have become independent from them financially then decided to join in working on their land and now most of these families have considered horticulture farming as a reliable source of income for their family. Reports of domestic violence among the farmers decreased significantly.

Video of the Multi-stakeholder Partnership in South-Central Timor District, East Nusa Tenggara can be accessed here: [Tayang-Final Video SDGs Kabupaten TTS 2022.mp4](#)