

Felisberta's story



Harvest
Appeal
2020



- ◆ Timor Leste is part of the island of Timor in Southeast Asia.
- ◆ Many of the poorest people live in the island's steep and forested mountains, difficult-to-access communities that are also threatened by landslides and flooding.
- ◆ 1 in 5 people do not have access to clean water and nearly half the population have no decent toilet.

"It seems like the dry season is getting longer and it's very hot. This has only happened during the last two years."

Felisberta, Vatuvou village, Timor Leste

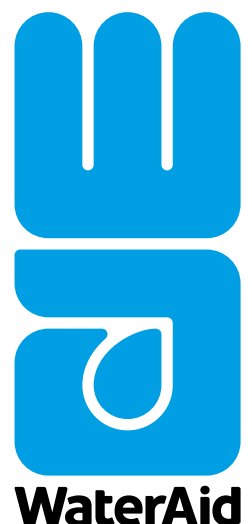


Felisberta is 57 years old and lives in the village of Vatuvou. Her family depends on farming, like everyone else in the area. The dry season has always been challenging for the community – the people of Timor Leste just refer to it as the 'hungry' season.

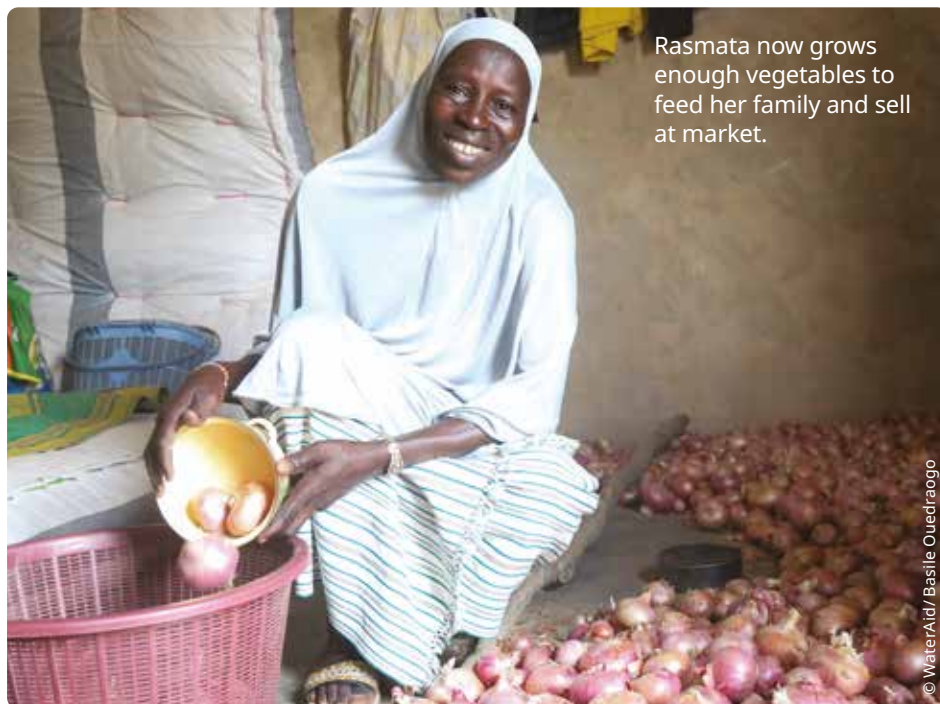
Now it's more difficult than ever – our changing climate has had a strong impact on the island, especially in the last years, making dry seasons last longer, water sources dry out and crops fail.

The village's income comes from selling crops, vegetables and livestock. But without access to water close to home, Felisberta and her community can't grow enough food to eat and sell. Recently they've also lost their animals because they weren't able to feed them and provide them with water.

Lack of access to clean water, poverty, hunger and climate extremes make communities like Felisberta's extremely vulnerable to crisis, like Covid-19. Having clean water close to home would mean improved hygiene, resilience against disease and the opportunity to earn an income for families in the poorest communities around the world, like Felisberta's.



Rasmata's story



Rasmata now grows enough vegetables to feed her family and sell at market.

- 💧 In Burkina Faso, West Africa, a hot, dry wind sweeps across the land from October to May. No rain falls, most rivers dry up and life is a struggle for many.
- 💧 Almost half the country live without clean water and 4 in 5 people don't have a decent toilet. Over 4,300 children under 5 die a year from diarrhoea, caused by dirty water and poor toilets.

Rasmata is 37 years old and lives in the village of Zabendella, Burkina Faso. During the rainy season she works with her husband in the fields but during the dry season she gardens together with 80 other women from the village.

In 2019 WaterAid has built two wells and 12 compostable toilets in the market garden area. Before that, there were no toilets in the village. Zabendella didn't have access to water and the community struggled to grow vegetables during the dry season. Poor soil quality requires fertilising but families like Rasmata's couldn't afford to buy fertiliser or had to sell their animals to cover the costs.

The community now not only has access to decent toilets but to fertiliser as well. By using the compostable toilets, waste products can be converted into fertiliser, significantly reducing the community's expenses.

Clean water and decent toilets have brought health and hygiene to Rasmata's community and a chance for financial stability. The women engaged in market gardening will now be able to grow enough vegetables to sell and earn an income to support their families.



Rasmata now has a compostable toilet by her home.

"It will reduce our expenses of buying the fertiliser. Before, we were sometimes forced to sell animals to buy fertiliser bags." Rasmata, Zabendella, Burkina Faso