



NTA September 2020 Newsletter.

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1. Empowering women in Flores, Ikat weaving. Eastern Indonesia.

NTA has been empowering women in Flores for many years. Traditional weaving is our current flagship program women's empowerment.



Ibu Susie Koffmann (sitting on the left) is the trainer. At the same table we Ludgardis Bunga and Ibu Brigitta Buko from the Farmer groups Akasiah. They learn how to use a sewing pattern to produce a Handbag



Figure 1 Ibu Siti Ruhani producing a handbag from her handwoven fabric.

The latest pilot project included 3 capacity building components, where women learnt more about,

- a) **The use of Natural Dye,**
- b) **Online Marketing / social media .**
- c) **Product diversification.**

Over the weekend 24-25 July 2020 NTA implemented the 3rd training component which aimed to increase women's capacity in producing more diverse range of products with their handmade, traditional woven cloth (Tenun Ikat).



Ibu Susie Koffman (main trainer on the far left) and Pak Matthias (NTA-Indonesia facilitator, far right) open the workshop. Participants include (left to right) Ibu Bernadeta Mitan, Ibu Firmina Silfi Linda, Ibu Siti Rohani, Ibu Maria Brigitta Buko, Ibu Ludgardis Bunga Eldis, and Ibu Yohana Tali.

The result was very positive, with the women having learnt how to produce **Bags, Purses and cloth-Facemasks.**

Direct statements from one of our participants, Ibu Ludgardis Bunga from the Akeshia farm group said **“I am very happy that I was able to learn how to use new and old samples of my woven products to make some accessories, and hope we can learn more in the near future.”** NTA is encouraged by this positive result and is looking to multiply the number of beneficiaries with more training.

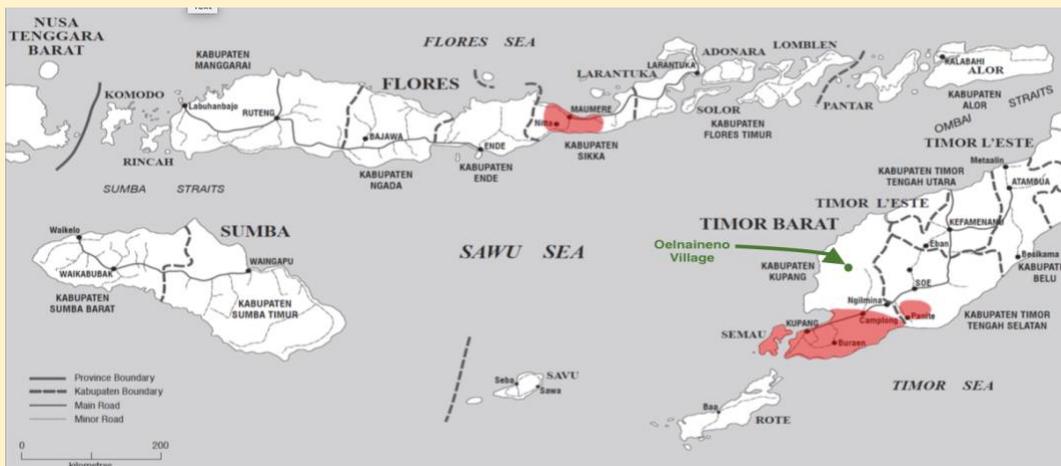
Below are three examples of products made from Tenun Ikat woven cloth. Face masks, wallet and small bag.

The NTA is looking at ways to make these products available in Australia.



Link to an NTA you tube video about Ikat weaving
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ffK3FWJ0sog>

2. New Target Area of NTA in 2020.



Red marked are as NTA Target areas, green arrow points to Oelnaineno Village

Oelnaineno Village (District: Kupang, Subdistrict Takari). Oelnaineno is a small village, located approximately 85km north east of the provincial Capital Kupang. The 2876 people living in Oelnaineno village experience big difficulties to access water during the 8 month long dry season between April and November.



Basic toilet unit built by the community a few years ago

The river from which the families get the daily water supply dries up between May and June and the price of water delivered by 5000lt trucks can go up to \$30 AUD in this time of the year. Considering that many families do not earn much more than \$500 AUD in a year, the cost of water is very high. According to the local authorities this results in very conservative water usage among the community, where numbers of showers per week are often reduced to one and cloth get washed less frequently. Combined with

very basic or missing sanitary facilities this situation offers an ideal environment for the spread of diseases such as Covid-19 and others.

The people in Oelnaineno are farmers and produce mostly just enough to cover their own needs. Malnutrition is still common among little children and leads to stunted growth.



Typical household set up in Oelnaineno: round house to store crops, outdoor kitchen and sometimes a small toilet unit which seldom offers privacy proper shelter.

NTA has been approached by the people from Oelnaineno, as they have heard of the Rainwater Catchment tanks and Toilet/Wash Units that NTA has been built in other areas.

Under the coordination of the local village leader (Kepala Desa), a total of 8 Farmer groups consisting of 10 families each applied to NTA for support.

The Groups were visited by NTA in January 2020 in a meeting facilitated by the village leader. All Groups agreed to the NTA-regulations, which include that the beneficiaries follow the design and technical specifics provided by NTA for the Rainwater catchment tanks and wash/toilet units. They also understand that it is expected from them to participate during the implementation by providing all labour and some local material, whilst NTA provides remaining material (cement, iron, corrugated iron sheets etc.) and technical guidance. In a next step one representative of each group joined the annual Community meeting (Musyawarah) in Kupang, where NTA groups meet to discuss and evaluate the activities.

After attending the community meeting, the 8 new groups became eligible for NTA-support. Since then (March 2020), 5 Water Tanks and 9 Toilet and Wash units have been built in this area. The People from Oelnaineno have been very motivated and energetic in getting these items finished quickly, meeting all the quality standards established by NTA. The village leader kept his role as a regional coordinator for these groups and supports the program with a lot of enthusiasm. This kind of cooperation between NTA and the local government is very important and productive. It helps to make sure the support is given to those in most need, without over-lapping existing government projects.



Above Left. Ibu Bnika is very content with her new Tank which will offer her family of 5 water for most of the year.



Above Right. Bapak Yohanes and Ibu Sara with their son Ferdianan in Front of their new 15'000 liter Rainwater catchment tank.



Picture at left. Pak Melki and Ibu Defriana in front of their new Wash/Toilet Unit together with their 4 children Sterling, Arlini, Meli and Fare.

Being able to collect 15,000 lt Rainwater during the rainy season gives the families in Oelnaineno the possibility to have more time for productive activities as they no longer need to walk to the river to fetch water. When the river dries out, they will furthermore still

have some water from the rainy season. Once this is used, the families can share the cost of Water Trucks which will allow them access to more affordable water all true the year.

Stephanie Heighes, June 2020



Figure 2 Teacher and NTA-I staff with water tank at SDN Nait.

3.Update on NTA's COVID-19 Response in Schools of Rural Eastern Indonesia.

The NTA's end of Financial year fundraiser with an emphasis on COVID-19 was very successful. Below is a report on the NTA's COVID-19 effort undertaken by our partners in the NTA-I.

Background: NTA's immediate action to address COVID-19 from early March in Flores and West Timor. NTA-I and its field staff have been proactive in educating the communities on the virus and promoting appropriate hygiene practices. The team used large banners and sets of educational posters, discussed the matter with local leaders and the community. Conscious to apply and promote physical distancing, these meetings were all held outside in small groups only. More than 600 posters have been distributed and 48 large banners installed in strategic locations (markets, cross roads, village centres).

Providing remote communities with access to reliable information on the virus was and still is crucial, especially in areas where only a few people have access to online media and government officials seldom visit.

In a second step, good handwashing practice has been promoted, combined with the distribution of handwashing stations and soaps in 46 communities (farmer groups and village-offices).

From 29 July, local schools reopened their doors and NTA accelerated its school based COVID-19 response.

NTA's COVID-19 response in schools NTA focussed on 61 primary and middle schools. They are being provided with handwashing stations, soap and hygiene training, educational materials such as posters, stickers, and electronic material such as videos and e-books which are presented in schools using a small portable projector and soft-copies are handed over to the school management. Two schools in West Timor (SDN Nait in Kupang Barat and SDN Amananmang in South Semau) had no water-storage facility whatsoever and were provided with a 5000-litre water tank which fill with rainwater collected from the roof or with water purchased from trucks.

In the first week, we visited 12 schools. The handwashing stations and tanks were distributed and received with big warm smiles from students and teachers. The hygiene training will follow in late August.



Figure 3 Students and Principal at SDN Nait.

We would like to thank all the generous donors who have supported NTA in this important COVID-19 response. A special THANK YOU to Australian Indonesian Association ACT, who donated majority of the handwashing stations for schools. Your donation makes a big difference in the lives of many students in Eastern Indonesia.

The following are links to the current fundraisers the NTA are promoting.

For Covid-19

<https://www.givenow.com.au/nusatenggaracovid>

For Ikat weaving

<https://www.givenow.com.au/ikat>



NTA East Indonesia Aid
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he NUSATENGARA ASSOCIATION (also called NTA East Indonesia Aid) reduces poverty among poor rural communities of Eastern Indonesia through activities to improve food security and incomes, water and sanitation, and education