



PROJECT OVERVIEW

MECIHO

MULTISECTORAL COLLABORATION FOR INCLUSIVE HEALTH AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN

PROJECT GOAL

To expand women's leadership and civic engagement and improve mechanisms and services that support the advancement of healthier homes and improved living conditions in Karo Regency, Indonesia

The Starbucks Foundation-funded MECIHO project (2021 – 2024) empowers women and improves the health, hygiene and living conditions of households and communities in Indonesia. Complementing the Indonesian government's nutrition and stunting interventions, MECIHO responds to significant needs in coffee-growing communities in Karo Regency where one in four households lack clean water, sanitation challenges endanger public health and current systems of local governance regularly exclude women.

The MECIHO project has two key objectives: 1) strengthened women's leadership on and engagement in governance

initiatives and 2) support for the advancement of healthier homes and better living conditions. As a result, community resources for improved WASH, such as garbage banks and latrines will be in place, and the local government will be more responsive, particularly to women's needs, with the understanding that healthier environments enhance nutrition outcomes. MECIHO will directly benefit 8,183 people and empower 4,605 women to improve health, hygiene, and living conditions for themselves and their families.

The MECIHO project is the expansion of The Starbucks Foundation-funded Kopi Nande: Women-Led Community Health and Hygiene project, which ended in 2021. MECIHO is implemented following best practices from the earlier project that contributed to Kopi Nande's success. Women champions from Kopi Nande are now supporting MECIHO by acting as mentors to women in these new coffee-growing communities.



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In concert with Corus International

EXPECTED RESULTS

- **4,605 women** will be empowered to improve health, hygiene, and living conditions for themselves and their families
- **Two communities and one school** will have improved latrine facilities and receive WASH education
- **Women's voices** will be better represented at annual community budget planning meetings
- **Four women's groups** will have established alternative business units
- **At least 150 women from six communities** will have the opportunity to meet, discuss and deliver their needs and ideas to the government at the regency level
- **At least 1,000 households** will become garbage bank clients

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF IN INDONESIA AND BEYOND

Lutheran World Relief has worked in Indonesia since 2004 addressing both emergency and long-term development needs by building community-based resilience through improving livelihoods, food security, climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction. Lutheran World Relief's work in Indonesia has focused on coffee-growing communities in Aceh, North Sumatra and Flores. Within North Sumatra, Lutheran World Relief began work in Karo Regency in 2014, helping communities recover from the Mt. Sinabung eruption; prior to that, we worked with cocoa farmers in Deliserdang.

Lutheran World Relief is active in coffee-growing communities globally and in addition to current programs in Indonesia, has also collaborated with The Starbucks Foundation in Colombia (2014-2021). Through our work in coffee and cocoa communities, Lutheran World Relief has collaborated with communities and coffee cooperatives to establish more inclusive laws and governance norms, promoted the adoption of climate-smart practices such as biodigesters and wet mill coffee washing and advanced community knowledge and use of best practices in WASH. More broadly, Lutheran World Relief acts as a convener of stakeholders across the value chain to improve the lives of smallholder farmers. Together, these approaches are leading to improved wellbeing for women, girls and all members of communities.



The Corus Effect

Lutheran World Relief is part of Corus International, an ensemble of global leaders in international development and humanitarian assistance. In addition to Lutheran World Relief, the Corus family of organizations includes global public health agency IMA World Health, U.K.-based technology for development company CGA Technologies, impact investing fund Ground Up Investing, and direct trade company Farmers Market Brands.

We operate as permanent partners, integrating expertise, disciplines, approaches and resources to overcome global health challenges, develop productive and stable economies, improve resilience in the face of climate change, and respond to natural disasters and humanitarian crises.



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