



PROJECT OVERVIEW

MECIHO Accelerator

WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT IN COFFEE-GROWING COMMUNITIES (MECIHO-A)

PROJECT GOAL

Empower women and girls through economic opportunities and leadership to improve hygiene and living conditions in coffee-growing communities.

The Starbucks Foundation-funded MECIHO Accelerator (MECIHO-A) project carries on the momentum of Lutheran World Relief's ongoing partnership with the Starbucks Foundation, leveraging the success of the past Kopi Nande and MECIHO (Multisectoral Collaboration for Inclusive Health and Opportunity for Women) initiatives, which empowered over 10,000 women and impacted nearly 44,000 people in North Sumatra. Women champions from Kopi Nande are now mentoring MECIHO participants in these new coffee-growing communities.

From October 2024 and through January 2028, MECIHO-A will further this impact by addressing the health, sanitation, and

environmental challenges in coffee-growing areas of Karo and Deliserdang Regencies. Women in six villages have already established Garbage Banks to process waste, generate income, and improve waste management. MECIHO-A will expand this model by supporting the establishment of more Garbage Banks, fostering leadership through women-led water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) committees and strengthening community ties with local and regency governments.

MECIHO-A will employ Lutheran World Relief's proven integration and empowerment framework, offering financial literacy, entrepreneurial training, and marketing skills to empower participants. MECIHO-A will also provide climate-smart agriculture training in collaboration with the Starbucks Farmer Support Center.

A key aspect of the program is Arts-Based Community



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Development (ABCD), which leverages traditional art forms to engage entire communities in challenging gender norms and fostering women's leadership in WASH. Using community theater and art, ABCD in MECIHO-A will facilitate dialogue on barriers to women's participation and encourages active engagement from men and boys.

EXPECTED RESULTS

- **10,073 women** will be directly empowered to contribute to economic development and cleaner communities, improving the lives of 47,092 people
- **240 women** will be trained to develop leadership skills in hygiene promotion, financial literacy and garbage bank meeting facilitation
- **600 individuals** will gain access to financial services, including blended finance options that combine grants with loans
- **1,000 households** will have income diversification

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.



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The Corus Effect

Founded by Lutherans in the United States at the end of World War II to serve refugees, Lutheran World Relief has grown into a leading humanitarian assistance and development organization that specializes in analyzing market systems, strengthening agriculture value chains and the capacities of enterprises, and promoting livelihood diversification, rural financing, climate smart and improved agriculture practices, and sustainable water and land management.

Lutheran World Relief is a part of the Corus International family, an ensemble of long-serving, global leaders in international development and humanitarian assistance committed to ending poverty and building healthy communities across Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, the Middle East, and Africa. Alongside communities and local partners in fragile settings, Corus' dedicated experts across the family of organizations integrate 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.

