



# Fair Futures

For women & girls in Timor-Leste



## Executive summary

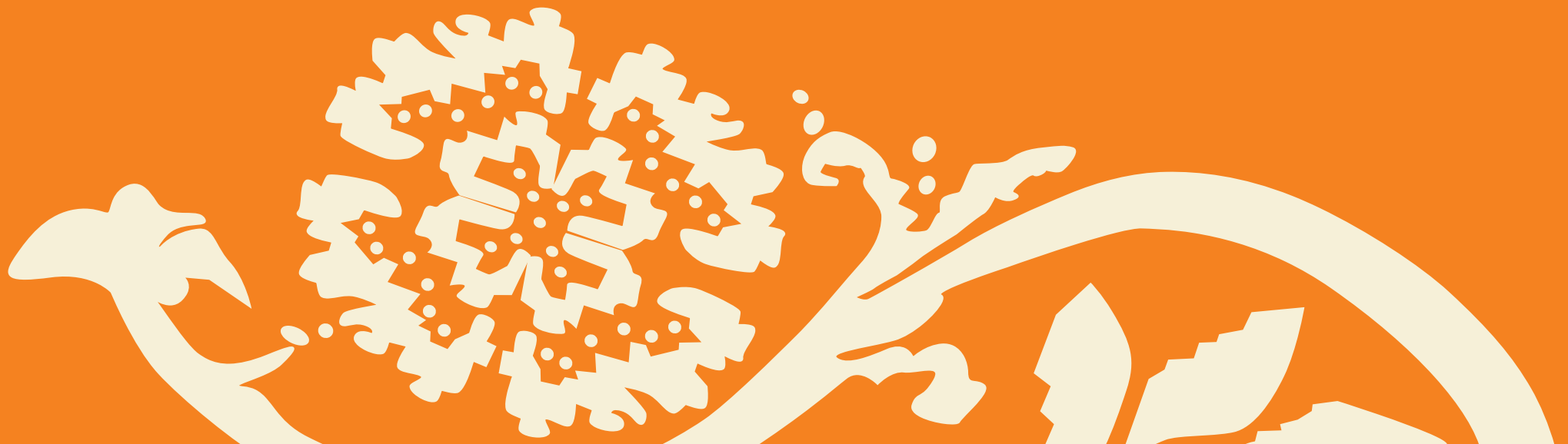
ETWA, is a small NGO with a big heart for women in rural Timor-Leste. As a grassroots organisation we have a direct connection with the communities we work with, which means our work has a direct impact at the community level.

Through our relationship with the LO'UD Cooperative, we've shown that community to community partnerships are a powerful vehicle for delivering positive change. But we began to ask ourselves, how can we reach out to other women in Timor-Leste? We aren't a big NGO but our work makes a real difference in the lives of the families we support. That's why we've started the Fair Futures initiative.

Fair Futures aims to embed international fair trade standards into the production environment in Timor-Leste to empower the thousands of women who rely on hand-weaving as their main livelihood. This is a big task and we're up for the challenge.

Fair Futures is about helping communities but it's also about building a network of active partners who share a goal of supporting ethical business in Timor-Leste. By donating to Fair Futures you'll be part of this network, a network of people committed to fair trade and fair futures for women and girls. You'll be part of ensuring that communities have access to the resources they need and the opportunity to achieve their potential. You'll help us continue the vital work that we do in Timor-Leste.

**Fair Futures = Fair Trade**



**Fair Futures aims to embed  
international fair trade  
standards into the production  
environment in Timor-Leste**

**To empower the thousands of  
women who rely on  
hand-weaving as their  
main livelihood.**

# The Facts:

“In 2010 45% of Timor’s 1.1 million people were under the age of 15

‘Only 18% of girls over 15 attend high school nationally’ and in rural areas it’s less than 3%’

‘Our research shows on average women receive 30% below the (NMW) National Minimum Wage, with some earning as little as five cents per hour.’

‘And approximately 90,000 women rely on weaving textiles as source of income’

## Five Pillars of Fair Futures in context of Timor-Leste, inspired by pillars of sustainability



### Fair Trade Standards

A high percentage of women in Timor-Leste rely on hand-weaving as their main livelihood however they remain unprotected and vulnerable. On average they receive 30% below the National Minimum Wage, some earning as little as five cents per hour. Women are made poorer by these practices as production or cotton costs are often not covered by the selling price.



### Education and Training

Timor-Leste is a young nation. It gained independence in 2002 and 60% of its 1.1 million people are under the age of 24. Facing significant challenges, investment in education is a national priority. ETWA's key partners hail from Iliomar a remote region in the South-East where 47% of women have never attended school and one in four women are illiterate. Only 3% of girls over the age of 15 attend high school whereas the national average is just under 18%.



### Poverty Alleviation

Timor-Leste is the poorest nation in South-East Asia. Most indicators place the remote region of Iliomar well below national standards. 50% of families have NO cash income but women shoulder a greater share of the poverty burden. Only 19% of women are engaged in economic activity (compared to the national average of 31%) and lack of income hinders school attendance and good health.



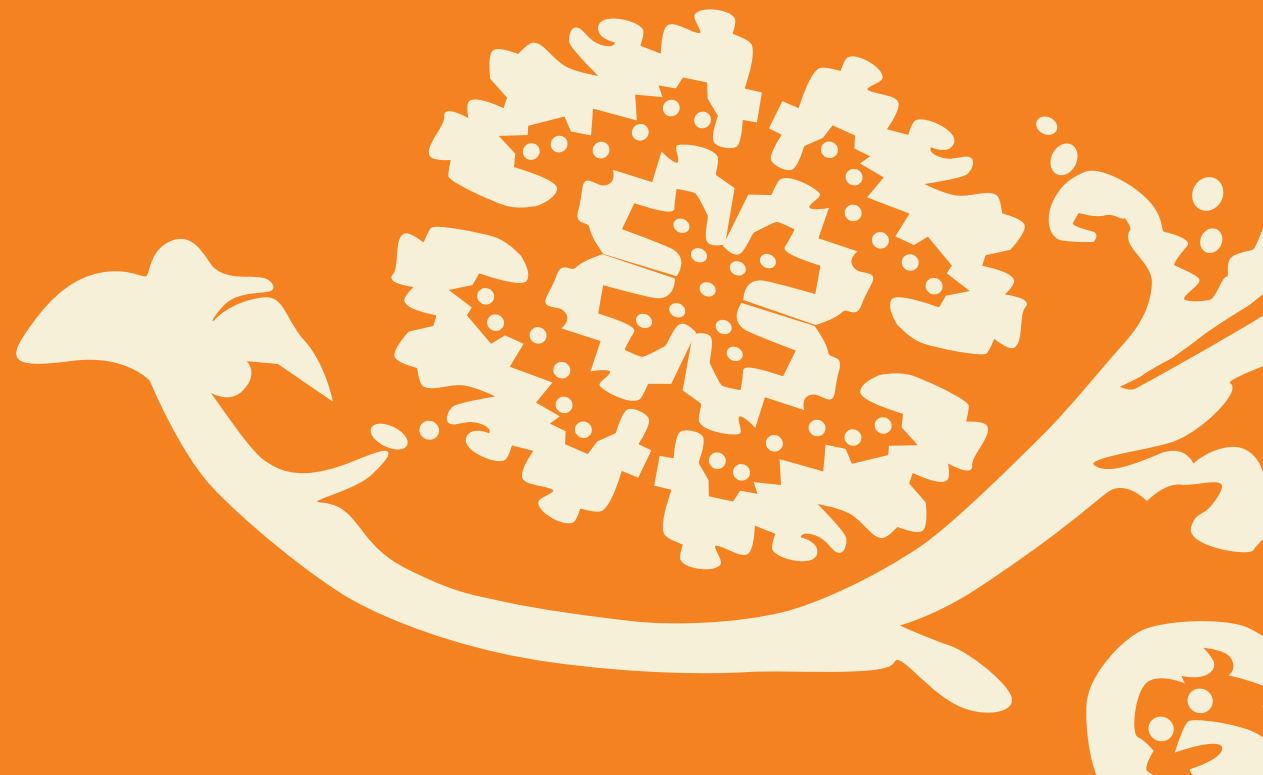
### Preserving Culture

Traditional textiles known as tais embody women's contribution to cultural and social life in Timor-Leste. However a high proportion of tais are now woven using chemically dyed, imported cotton. As a result, traditional knowledge of techniques and natural dyes used for centuries in Timor-Leste, are now held by only a few older women in each community.



### Sustainable Agriculture

# Sustainability Framework



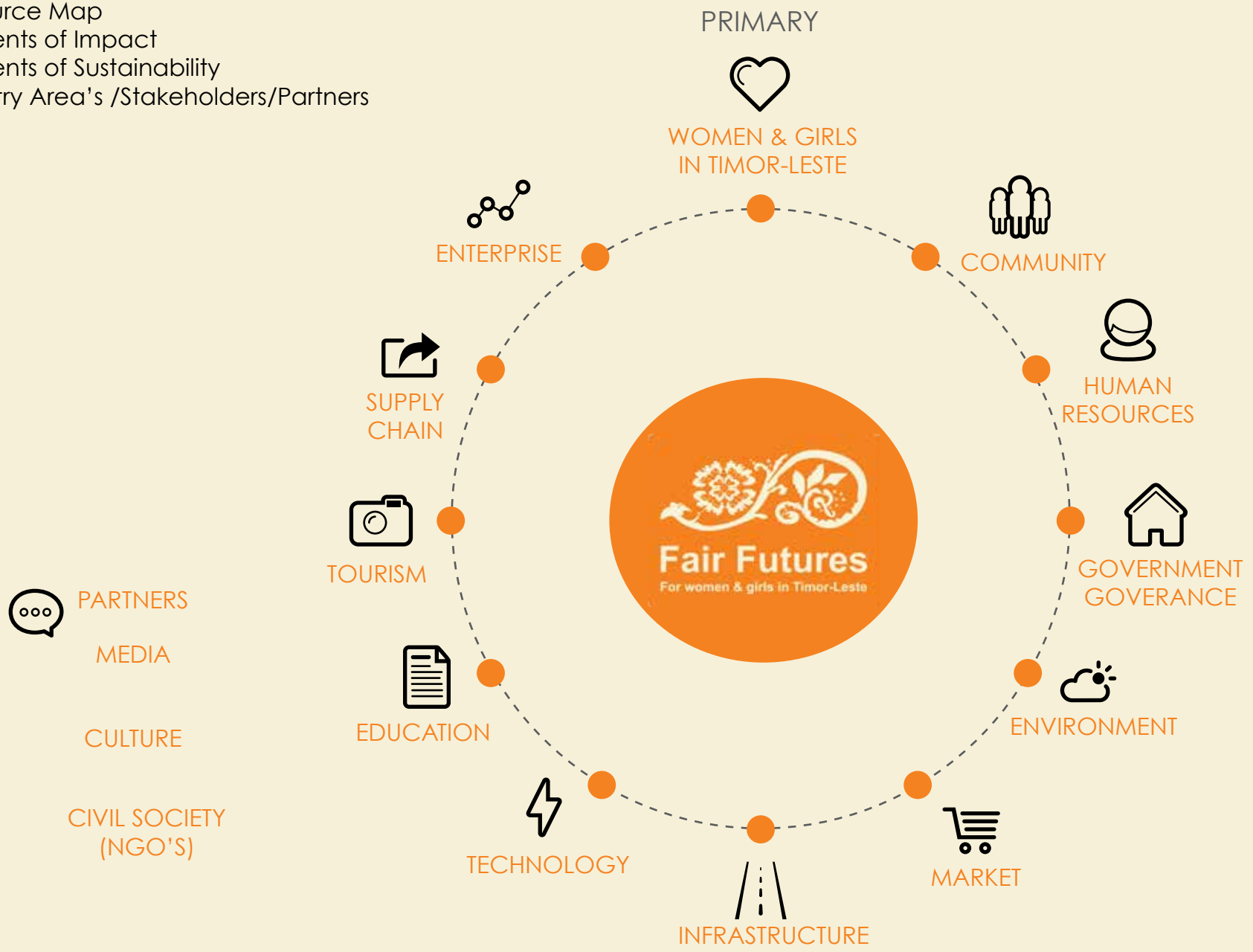


Possible Map Titles:  
Elements of Sustainability  
Five Pillars of Fair Futures  
Sustainability Map  
Elements of Focus  
Goals of Fair Futures



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- Possible Titles:
- Sustainability Map
- Resource Map
- Elements of Impact
- Elements of Sustainability
- Industry Area's /Stakeholders/Partners



# FF Sustainability Map Viability Map



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# Research & Scope Identified Elements



Identified Obstacles  
to Sustainability



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Identified Solutions to Sustainability



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# Strategic Plan



Strategic  
Plan

Fair Futures  
Coordinator  
Timor-Leste

Fair Futures  
Coordinator  
Australia

Their role, together, is to  
Network, engage and coordinate,  
volunteers and stakeholders to

**Explore, Discover & Pilot  
Solutions**



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# **We will work with communities to:**

To address identified Elements within context of Sustainability Map to:

Build a network of active partners who share a goal of supporting ethical business in Timor-Leste.

Provide necessary resources to further develop their production environment and create sustainable supply chains.

Develop solutions for increasing access to educations and income in rural communities in Timor-Leste.

# Demonstration Effect



ETWA is a small  
NGO with a big  
heart for women &  
girls in Timor-Leste



LO'UD is a  
women's  
cooperative with  
over 80 weavers  
across three  
communities.

**We have been working together since 2009**

# Our methods have proven successful:

ETWA & LO'UD volunteers now communicate via cloud technology, allowing for greater ability to reach goals.

We've worked together to develop a new range of textiles utilising natural Plant Dyes

And through Fair Trade pricing, LO'UD members are paid approximately 60% more for their textiles than other weavers across Timor-Leste.

And all these achievements have occurred in the face of some major national challenges

