

MISSION MOMENT

INDONESIA

Love gives...and then gives some more.

Emiliani lives in the Balombong village of Indonesia, an area where most people rely on farming to earn their living. As a changing climate affects harvests, families such as hers must find ways to adapt.

The “DREAM team” (Disaster Risk Reduction through Enhanced Adaptive Measures) is a program of Church World Service, supported by Week of Compassion. The partnership supports community savings groups-- including the one that Emiliani joined, which is run by women in Balombong. These farmers each contribute to the group and then are able to take out loans to meet basic needs, expand businesses, or otherwise work toward economic stability. Week of Compassion partners provide workshops about organizational and bookkeeping skills, as well as sharing climate-adapted farming practices with the group, so they can continue farming even in the dry season.

“I never miss a group meeting because the opportunity to learn new things is so great,” Emiliani says. “Not to mention the friendships that bloomed within our group. With each passing month we continue motivating each other to grow our incomes.”

Some of the new things Emiliani learned from the group were how to make organic composts, fertilizers, and pesticides. Her garden began to flourish with these new techniques, but Emiliani didn't stop there. She decided to take a risk and plant vegetables during the dry season, making \$54 from her first dry season harvest! The family's typical income is between \$1000 and \$1400 a year, and these additional funds helped cover living expenses for her son so that he could go to school! Her success has encouraged others to also plant during this season. Now, they can all sell their harvest at the market or share their vegetables with neighbors year-round.

Through your gifts to Week of Compassion, programs like DREAM not only empower women to maintain a stable farming income in a shifting climate; they also help women to dream bigger dreams. The climate-adapted farming practices, in addition to the business-managing workshops, have given these women the confidence and skills they need to thrive year-round - through farming and through the community bond of friendship they've developed!

“And now faith, hope, and love remain; and the greatest of these is love.” When you give to Week of Compassion, you are participating in the kind of love that offers the women of Balombong a pathway to a sustainable future where the entire community can thrive.