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We have been married for almost two years, yet she is not my wife. The high price of obligatory dowry forced us to delay our traditional wedding rituals.

She was my college-mate, now we are both honorarium-based teachers in our village. We make IDR 600,000/ month and are paid every three months. We have to strive to meet the family needs, let alone to save for the traditional wedding.

Many asked, with our degrees why don't we leave the village to seek for success? As the only son of a Manggarai family, a culture where inheritance is largely passed down through men, I must remain in the family home. I am the inheritance holder: my parents' keeper, our family heir.

In 2016, we learned about sustainable pig farming using rearing management and improved feed from HIVOS. With this we experienced a shorter production cycle: if before it took almost a year for piglets to meet the market standards, now the piglets are ready to be sold within two months. We can make a profit of IDR 300,000 per pig every two months.

We used to spend seven hours just to prepare the feed, now this only takes us an hour a day. This enables us to be more efficient, and we have more time to serve as fecients. I hope soon we can have enough money to pay for the dowry and wedding rituals. I wish to make her proud.

 Rion Suasa and Finansia Aprilia Paba from Pong Majok Village, West Manggarai, East Nusa Tenggara are beneficiaries of the Australia-Indonesia Partnership PRISMA program.