

OPERATIONS UPDATE



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Fédération Internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

TIMOR-LESTE: STORMS AND FLOODS

10 April 2006

The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in over 183 countries.

In Brief

Appeal No. MD RTP001; Operations Update no. 02; Period covered: 10 March to 24 March 2006;
Appeal coverage: 86.4% ([click here to go directly to the attached Contributions List, also available on the website](#)).

Appeal history:

- Emergency Appeal launched on 23 February 2006 for CHF 569,685 (USD 431,253 or EUR 364,016) to assist some 8,400 beneficiaries for six months.
- CHF 200,000 has been allocated from the Disaster Relief Emergency Funds (DREF)

Outstanding needs: CHF 77,477 (USD 58,650 or EUR 49,506)

Related Emergency or Annual Appeals: [Timor-Leste Appeal 2006-2007 MAATP001](#), [Southeast Asia Appeal 2006-2007 MAA51001](#)

Operational Summary: Donor response to the Emergency Appeal in support has been good, enabling the Timor-Leste Red Cross (Cruz Vermelha De Timor-Leste or CVTL) to assist thousands of those affected by recent storms and floods. The 'spread' of 10 donors supporting the society is also very encouraging. However, more support from international partners and sister national societies is requested so that the momentum of CVTL's operation is maintained. The operation is a great opportunity for the society to reach some of Timor-Leste's most vulnerable communities; improve their lives by ensuring their needs are met and that their capacity to respond to future disaster is strengthened.

CVTL is still a young national society but has already established itself as a reliable partner of both governments and vulnerable communities, particularly in alleviating human suffering at times of disaster. The Federation's delegation in Timor-Leste continues to support the ongoing emergence and strengthening of CVTL.

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for a full description of the national society profile, please access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

Background

Timor-Leste has experienced good weather for the past two weeks, but the threat of storms remains and the potential for future hazardous situations for vulnerable populations is significant. The CVTL disaster management unit is working hard on the ground to support affected people while at the same time adopting a learning approach to things so that it strengthens its own capability as well as the resilience of communities.

Beneficiaries have begun to re-establish their normal lives although often they face difficulties and a lack of resources. CVTL continues to assess the situation and needs in affected districts, namely Baucau, Viqueque, Maliana, Bobonaro and Ainaro. This is to ensure that appropriate identification, selection and registration of beneficiaries will be in place and distribution systems will follow national society and Federation standards.

In Baucau district, the secretary-general and Federation head of delegation conducted a field visit and attended a coordination meeting with the branch president and staff at the end of March 2006. As a result, the branch president reported that the number of affected households in need of reconstruction materials for shelter had increased from 240 to 840 households. The increase is due to the government not having the capacity to provide the support it had agreed upon. As a result, CVTL branch staff members are discussing with government representatives to ensure the needs of all the affected families are met.

In Atauro sub-district (Dili district) and Liquica district, CVTL conducted a three-day assessment in affected areas in the wake of further strong winds and heavy rains. A total of 1,455 households comprising approximately 8,730 people were affected in Atauro sub-district (1,455 households) and Liquica district (98 households). In total, 74 houses were reported as destroyed (9 in Atauro and 65 in Liquica) and 91 houses were reported as damaged (6 in Atauro and 85 in Liquica). No casualties were reported. The immediate needs of affected families are housing materials, particularly roof constructions.

Operational developments

The implementation of the appeal objectives and subsequent activities was guided by the six-month plan of action. To date, all activities have been completed according to the plan. However, the implementation team has identified a possible delay with regards to the procurement of materials for future activities. Due to limited local suppliers, procurement has been arranged from neighbouring Indonesia and items will be shipped from Surabaya, Indonesia. It is expected that the delivery will be received no later than mid-April 2006.

The Federation continues to provide technical support in the procurement of non-food and shelter materials, and supporting the development of the CVTL disaster management unit in response and implementation of programmes.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Provision of immediate relief assistance (non-food items)

Objective 1: 500 families in Oecusse are protected from immediate health threats in terms of unsafe water and mosquitoes.

Progress/Achievements

2,000 mosquito nets and 1,000 jerry cans have been procured and are scheduled for delivery.

Constraints

As a result of the limited number of local suppliers, the procurement of relief items has been arranged from neighboring Surabaya, Indonesia. As such, delivery is expected to be slightly delayed due to a relatively infrequent shipping schedule of only one trip per week.



Communities were taught to build stronger roofs that would weather strong winds, keeping families safe in their homes during storms.

Shelter (4 Districts)

Objective 1: Target communities are more aware of improved construction techniques.

Progress/Achievements

CVTL staff members are conducting a needs analysis in coordination with district government and beneficiary representatives to determine existing knowledge and requirements for transferring knowledge on improved construction techniques. Based on this analysis, a schedule for constructing physical examples of appropriate roof construction in the areas of Bobonaro, Maliana, Viqueque, Baucau and Hato Builico will be developed.

Impact

The inclusion of both district government and the target beneficiaries in the needs analysis and the construction of samples of improved roof construction will ensure the methodology and content of the training sessions address genuine needs in an appropriate way.

Objective 2: 200 families have used improved construction techniques so that their homes are more storm resistant.

Progress/Achievements

CVTL staff members have confirmed beneficiary numbers and completed registration in the areas of Bobonaro, Maliana, Viqueque, Baucau and Hato Builico. Finalization of the procurement needs for construction materials is underway.

Impact

The most affected families will be given priority and be provided with prompt protection from the elements.

Constraints

During initial assessments and discussions with the district government it was agreed that CVTL would support the reconstruction of shelter for 200 of the families in the four districts. The remainder of the affected population was to be provided assistance by government structures. However, during recent coordination meetings it was identified that in the Baucau district, the government is no longer able to provide such assistance. This has required CVTL to reprioritize their beneficiary selection process to ensure the most affected receive support.

Water and sanitation

Objective: Communities in Oecusse have secure sources of potable water.

Progress/Achievements

The provision of safe water to the affected population has been achieved through the cleaning and purification of 111 groundwater wells. During the cleaning of existing wells, the CVTL water and sanitation team identified some concerns over potential future contamination of existing wells. As such, the water and sanitation team, with support from the Federation’s regional water and sanitation delegate, is currently assessing the best way forward to ensure longer-term access to safe water supply for the affected population.



CVTL volunteers have cleaned a total of 111 wells so far, providing clean and safe water to 700 families in Oecusse district.

Impact

A total of 700 families now have access to 111 deep wells cleaned in Oecusse district. These sources of safe clean water have improved the hygiene and sanitary conditions of these families affected by disaster, directly reducing their risk to waterborne diseases.

Constraints

The procurement of water purification tablets for household use has been difficult because there are no suppliers within Timor-Leste. In addition, after further consultation with the affected population, there is no knowledge on the use of such tablets, and even scepticism. Based on this community reaction as well as the widespread practice of boiling drinking water and the completion of well cleaning, the planned procurement and distribution of water purification tablets has been cancelled. This objective will not be incorporated into the longer-term planning for provision of sustainable safe water sources.

National society capacity building

Objective: The national society's disaster management capacity is strengthened.

Progress/Achievements

Substantial progress has been made in this area including:

- A standard emergency assessment checklist formulated to be used by the national society for monitoring and assessment.
- Seventeen volunteers trained and organized on assessment and relief management from different branches of CVTL.
- A temporary CVTL disaster management operation centre established at the disaster management unit for monitoring and operation updates.
- A standard system for disaster response and reporting established for CVTL's disaster management unit.
- A national society standard training curriculum and syllabus formulated for the national disaster response training (NDRT) to use.
- Continuing progress on drafting a national contingency plan for disaster response.



As part of building up the national society, the Federation conducted training sessions for CVTL branch volunteers, further increasing their capacity in assessment and relief management. CVTL conducted assessments which provided vital information for the relief operation.

Impact

The CVTL staff further developed understanding and awareness on procedures and systems in disaster response and reporting during emergencies. This has been shown in the day-to-day monitoring of existing and potential hazards and better targeting of disaster management programmes to reduce risk.

Constraints

The current capacity and knowledge of the CVTL disaster management unit, which comprises three staff members, need to improve. As such, the strengthening of CVTL in this area is progressing slowly so as to not overload the society and to ensure sustainable outcomes.

Federation coordination

The Federation's country delegation and disaster management programme officer deployed by the regional disaster management unit in Bangkok are helping CVTL to formulate the plan of action and subsequent implementation. Regular meetings, coordinated by the head of delegation, to monitor operational progress and ensure coordination are held with CVTL counterparts.

The country delegation has provided technical support in training/organization of disaster management volunteers, establishment of a disaster operation centre, formulation of standard training curriculum and syllabus for the national disaster response team and formulation of CVTL's emergency assessment checklist and relief management.

National society capacity building

The national society has mobilized its volunteers at headquarters and in branches (those in affected and non-affected areas) to assist its operations, particularly in the treatment of water in the deep wells in Oecusse district and construction of new roofs in Ainaro. CVTL's disaster management unit and logistics department identified qualified bidders to deliver required items at reasonable prices. The health unit is helping in the coordination of the design of six deep wells in Oecusse district.

The national society is also in regular contact with other partner agencies in the country in terms of disaster management.

[Contributions list below; click here to return to the title page.](#)

Timor Leste - storms and floods

ANNEX 1

APPEAL No. MDRTP001

PLEDGES RECEIVED

06/04/2006

SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED	0	CHF
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