

# 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

27 July 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 185 countries.

### In Brief

**Appeal No. MD RTP001;**

**Operations Update no. 03;**

**Period covered: April – June 2006;**

**Appeal coverage: fully covered**

*(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)
- The Federation requests that the appeal programme be extended by three months until 23 November 2006 because of delays stemming from factors such as instability within the country.

#### Related Appeals:

[Timor-Leste Appeal 2006-2007 \(MAATP001\);](#) [Southeast Asia Appeal 2006-2007 \(MAA51001\)](#)

**Operation Summary:** The response to the Emergency Appeal has been excellent. Cruz Vermelha De Timor-Leste (Timor-Leste Red Cross or CVTL) has assisted thousands of those affected by the storms and floods. However, recent and ongoing instability has caused significant delays in aspects of the operation. The national society's few resources have been stretched and indeed diverted to provide support to the tens of thousands displaced by the violence. The operation has also been hit by poor weather, difficulties in reaching communities and lack of resources in local markets. As such, the many partners supporting CVTL are requested to agree to a three-month extension to the storms and floods programme. Despite the difficulties, CVTL continues to demonstrate its effectiveness as a humanitarian organization. It is also proving itself a reliable partner of both governments and vulnerable communities. The Federation's delegation in Timor-Leste continues to support the ongoing emergence of CVTL.

#### For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- Cruz Vermelha de Timor-Leste (Timor-Leste Red Cross): Ms. Isabel Amaral Guterres (secretary-general); email: [sec-gen@cvtl.tp](mailto:sec-gen@cvtl.tp); Phone: +67.07.24.8963; Fax: +67.03.32.1688
- Federation delegation in Timor-Leste: Warwick Inder (head of delegation); email: [warwick.inder@ifrc.org](mailto:warwick.inder@ifrc.org); Phone: +67.07.23.1434; Fax: +67.03.32.2010
- Federation regional delegation in Bangkok: Bekele Geleta (head of regional delegation); email: [bekele.geleta@ifrc.org](mailto:bekele.geleta@ifrc.org); Phone: +66.2.640.8211; Fax: +66.2.640.8220
- Federation Secretariat in Geneva: Gert Venghaus (regional officer, Asia Pacific department); email: [gert.venghaus@ifrc.org](mailto:gert.venghaus@ifrc.org); Phone: +41.22.730.4258; Fax: +41.22.733.0395 or Sabine Feuglet (regional officer, Asia Pacific department); email: [sabine.feuglet@ifrc.org](mailto:sabine.feuglet@ifrc.org); Phone: +41.22.730.4349; Fax: +41.22.733.0395

## Background

A series of storms and flooding from late December 2005 through January 2006 affected some 8,400 people in Timor-Leste, resulting in severe losses of livelihood and shelters. Since then, CVTL (Cruz Vermelha de Timor-Leste or Timor-Leste Red Cross) has been at the forefront of efforts to help thousands of those affected. A six-month operation focusing on the provision of safe drinking water, the rebuilding of shelter, livelihoods and capacity building of the national society was developed after a thorough assessment of the disaster area.

## Operational developments

The six-month plan of action in response to the storms and floods is progressing well thanks to a huge effort from CVTL. Excellent support from international partners has enabled assistance to affected districts. 280 families who lost their houses have received building materials with design instructions. CVTL volunteers have also demonstrated how to erect the shelters. The enclave communities of Oe-cusse were badly affected by flooding and well contamination. They have received materials to build seven deep wells at a new location considered safe from future flooding.

The initial emergency phase was implemented accordingly. All required relief items were procured and the majority has been delivered to designated locations. However, because of very wet weather in March and April, delivery to hill villages was held up. There were further delays because of the unrest in Timor-Leste since April. The severe instability has seen shooting, burning, looting and infighting in the army and the police. International peace keepers from the Australian, New Zealand, Malaysian and Portuguese army arrived in May. The unrest caused the CVTL to shift its focus from this operation to attend the thousands of internally displaced people (IDP) fleeing their homes to safe camps. Most shops and suppliers of relief materials closed down. Presently, there are 78,000 IDPs in Dili and another 70,000 in the regions. Despite the difficulties, CVTL, with the support of the Federation country delegation in Timor-Leste, is committed to deliver planned support to designated beneficiaries. As security improves, programmes will again pick up momentum. Because of the delays in implementation due to the instability, partners are requested to agree to a three-month extension to the operation. Progress on the ground has been variable between districts. More activities have been carried out in Ainaro and Baucau compared with Bobonaro and Viqueue

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

### Provision of immediate relief assistance (non-food items)

**Objective 1:** 500 families in Oe-cusse are protected from immediate health threats in terms of unsafe water and mosquitoes.

#### Achievements:

- Soon after the flooding, CVTL deployed a water and sanitation team. A thorough assessment found communities were exposed to unsafe drinking water and health threats especially malaria and dengue. To date, 100 deep wells have been cleaned and made safe for communities to use. A further assessment looked for locations for new deep wells, safe from future flooding. Due to the unrest, progress has been disrupted. Over the last two weeks, however, the construction teams have started returning to the affected villages to complete the work before the rainy season starts in October/November. This work will continue pending the security situation.
- According to the needs assessment, 2,000 mosquito nets and 1,000 jerry cans were procured and distributed to 500 families in mid-April so that community members can collect water safely and be protected from malaria and dengue.

### Provision of shelter materials (4 districts)

Assessments showed that 650 houses were damaged or destroyed in four districts, namely Ainaro, Viqueue, Bobonaro and Baucau. The government provided materials for repair or rebuilding. In addition, it requested CVTL to provide supplementary assistance. The national society, with the support of the government, initially distributed shelter materials to 200 families. Another 450 families received appropriate repair materials and equipment (i.e. wood screws, nails, spanners and other required tools). Another assessment revealed a further 114 families who required shelter materials and these are being procured after an appropriate budget revision.

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

**Achievements:**

- A local builder was engaged short term to design structures and provide training for 16 volunteers for four districts.
- These 16 volunteers participated in construction training. They have returned to their own districts to work with affected families to raise awareness of improved housing techniques. They will also build demonstration houses for families to learn how to build their own structurally-stronger homes.
- Five model houses (which have since benefited five families) were constructed with improved roofs to demonstrate better construction techniques in different areas of Ainaro.
- Baucau was the second district where the process was carried out. Four volunteers worked intensively with 94 affected families to raise awareness of improved housing techniques and safer locations. Four demonstration homes are serving as models for the new homes.

**Objective 2:** 200 families are provided with housing materials and made aware of the improved construction techniques so that their homes are more storm resistant.

When launching the appeal, 200 families were pinpointed as direct beneficiaries of the shelter materials as CVTL played a complementary role to the government. However, this increased to a total of 314 (incorporating an additional 114) after a reassessment and the government struggled to fulfil its role. In such a situation, CVTL had little choice but to increase its assistance to support the additional identified families, ensuring the affected population was adequately assisted.

**Achievements:**

- According to the needs assessment, procurement of various basic shelter materials, such as corrugated iron sheets, timbers, nails, wooden screws with washers and spanners, has been carried out and delivered to CVTL storage. Timber was procured from Indonesia but not delivered because of the security problems. Delivery has started again as the security situation improves enabling CVTL and Federation staff to begin travelling to the regions again.
- Distribution of materials according to the standard procedures was completed for 94 families at Baucau districts.
- A team of four volunteers and a district branch officer are on site working with the affected families to build their shelters. The 94 families were due to move into their new dwelling shelters at the end of June.

**Water and Sanitation**

**Objective 1:** Communities in Oe-cusse have secured source of portable water.

**Achievements:**

- Villagers undertook most of the repairs themselves and major damage was limited.
- Water was the main concern as approximately 100 deep wells were contaminated by heavy flooding. CVTL's water and sanitation team, through a detailed assessment, identified seven new locations for new deep wells to be built safe from future flooding.
- The design of the deep wells has been completed with required materials procured and delivered to CVTL storage. The security situation has hampered delivery to construction teams working with the communities.

**National Society Capacity Building**

**Objective 1:** The national society disaster management capacity is strengthened.

CVTL delivered prompt and effective support to affected communities during the reporting period, strengthening its capacity in the process. As Timor-Leste is vulnerable to natural, technological or social/political disasters, it is imperative that CVTL continues to build its organizational capacity and resource base. The Federation country

delegation has focused its effort into ensuring the national society responds well to future emergencies. This operation has helped CVTL to develop disaster management responses and learn from these events.

#### **Achievements:**

- A standard national society emergencies assessment package and monitoring checklist has been developed to be used for assessment and monitoring.
- In coordination with the disaster management officer at headquarters, ten volunteers including three staff were provided with ongoing training in standard disaster assessment, procurement of supplies, relief management, utilizing appropriate forms such as the emergency assessment checklist, beneficiaries sheets, family record sheets and standard information management and reporting systems.
- Plans are in place for the latter part of this project to build an emergency response team for CVTL headquarters. Branches have been provided with training and the necessary tools in disaster assessment and response.
- There is a need to improve coordination with stakeholders through better documenting of various functions and responsibilities prior to or in the event of disasters.
- Discussions are underway for the development of emergency contingency plans, which will be circulated within the disaster management system on completion.

#### **Federation coordination and overall challenges**

The Federation's country delegation, with support from the regional disaster management unit in Bangkok, continues to support CVTL's implementation. Regular meetings, coordinated by the head of delegation, are held with CVTL counterparts to monitor operational progress and ensure coordination.

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.

Several challenges were identified:

- Resource mobilization is one of the main constraints as many supplies are difficult to find in-country, especially timber, which has had to be imported.
- Delivering relief to affected families has also been tough. Poor road conditions, distance between locations, ongoing bad weather and insecurity have affected distribution of building materials.
- The CVTL disaster management unit faced difficulties in providing services because of limited human resources and expertise and the strain of the IDP problem in Dili and the regions caused by the security situation.

#### **Income and Expenditure Summary as of 30 June 2006**

**Appeal No: MDRRTP001**  
**Appeal Amount: CHF 569,685**  
**Updated as at 30 June 2006**

<b>Donor</b>	<b>Local Currency</b>	<b>CHF approx.</b>
American RC	USD 50,000	64,950
Danish RC	DKK 200,000	39,100
Finnish RC	EUR 50,000	78,250
German RC	EUR 50,000	78,926
Irish RC	EUR 10,000	15,638
Japanese RC	USD 21,900	28,930
Korean RC	-	10,000
Monaco RC	EUR 10,000	15,790
Netherlands RC	EUR 36,500	57,597
New Zealand government/NZAID	NZD 150,000	125,280

Norwegian RC	NOK 539,874	109,493
Swedish RC	SEK 500,000	82,750
<b>Total contribution for the appeal</b>		<b>706,704</b>
<b>Total appeal coverage</b>		<b>124.1%<sup>1</sup></b>
<b>Expenses as at 30 June 2006</b>		<b>179,288</b>
<b>Expenses against budget as at 30 June</b>		<b>31.5%</b>
<b>Balance as at 30 June</b>		<b>527,416</b>

**Note:**

- DREF CHF 200,000 given on 16 Feb 2006 and reimbursed on 26 April 2006
- Spanish RC – EUR 12,000 (direct to CVTL)
- To date all contribution received.

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

*The International Federation undertakes activities that are aligned with its Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".*

*Global Agenda Goals:*

- *Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.*
- *Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.*
- *Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.*
- *Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.*

*All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations \(NGO's\) in Disaster Relief](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.*

*For longer-term programmes in this or other countries or regions, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for national society profiles, please also access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>*

<sup>1</sup> The appeal coverage here is more accurate than the contributions list as the calculation in the table does not take into account a Spanish Red Cross contribution that was made direct to CVTL.



# Timor Leste - storms and floods

ANNEX 1

APPEAL No. MDRTP001

## PLEDGES RECEIVED

10/07/2006

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED				0	CHF	