

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

6 November 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. 04;

Period covered: July – September 2006; Appeal coverage: fully covered

(click here for the revised budget attached) (click here for the Contributions List available on the website¹).

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.
- In Operations Update 3 (posted 27 July), the Federation extended the operation to 30 November 2006 – an extension of just over three months – because of the recent civil unrest.
- Budget revised upwards to CHF 709,841 (USD 567,872 or EUR 446,440) in Operations Update 4 (first released on 9 October and re-released with revised budget on 6 November 2006) to align with the positive response from donors.
- CHF 200,000 has been allocated from the Disaster Relief Emergency Funds (DREF)

Related Emergency or Annual Appeals:

[Timor-Leste Appeal 2006-2007 MAATP001](#), [Southeast Asia Regional Appeal 2006-2007 MAA51001](#)

Operation Summary: Partner response to the Emergency Appeal has been outstanding. Cruz Vermelha De Timor-Leste (Timor-Leste Red Cross, CVTL) has assisted thousands of those affected by the storms and floods. The recent and ongoing instability, however, caused significant delays. CVTL's few resources were stretched and, indeed, diverted to provide support to the tens of thousands of people displaced by the violence. Lately, activities have been getting back on track. Improved security, with support of international forces from Malaysia, Australia, New Zealand, Portugal and UN missions, has enabled a more robust operational approach with vulnerable communities being supported. It is anticipated that despite the fragility of the security situation, the operation will be complete at the end of the extended period. The Federation's delegation in Timor-Leste continues to support the ongoing emergence of CVTL as an effective humanitarian organization. Partnership with both vulnerable communities and government is improving. In the meantime, the appeal budget has been realigned to adjust to the overwhelming positive response from donors ([click here](#) for the revised budget attached).

For further information:

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¹ The contributions list does not as yet reflect the revised budget figures and was therefore not attached – this will be amended as soon as possible and reflected appropriately on the contributions list on the Federation website.

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, Cruz Vermelha de Timor-Leste (Timor-Leste Red Cross- CVTL) has been at the forefront of efforts to help thousands of those affected. Based on the six month operation plans focusing on the provision of safe drinking water, rebuilding of shelters, livelihoods and capacity building of the national society, activities were implemented. However, the internal conflict halted projects halfway through the programme. The arrival of an Australian-led military mission, with support from Portugal, New Zealand, Malaysia and UN missions improved the situation and projects began to be implemented again. A three-month extension to the programme was requested in the last update. By then CVTL should have provided significant support to affected communities and a final report will be prepared charting the history of the operation, including achievements and lessons learned. However, there will be a need to carry over resources to the disaster management programme in the annual appeal, which concentrates on capacity building ([Timor- Leste Appeal 2006-2007](#)). Discussions with partners to request for their agreement are ongoing. This flexibility will ensure that CVTL will emerge from this operation stronger in terms of its disaster management competency as well as completed service delivery to beneficiaries in designated districts.

Operational development

Despite the internal conflict, activities regained momentum with significant progress to date. CVTL has made a huge effort to deliver services before, during and after tensions. Some 280 families who lost their houses have received building materials along with the design demonstration. Beneficiaries have started building their own houses and some families have already moved into their new homes. In the badly-affected enclave community of Oe-cusse, CVTL water technicians are working with the communities to install seven deep wells at new locations considered safe from future flooding. Further assessment by CVTL disaster management team and district branches identified an additional 103 families to receive sets of shelter materials. It also planned an additional six wells to be built in Oe-cusse. A tender process for the provision of the additional sets of shelters materials and the wells is currently ongoing. It is anticipated that by the end of October and through November families will receive their shelter materials.

Red Cross and Red Crescent actions

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

- The construction teams have been back on site to complete the installation of seven deep wells despite disruptions around the internal conflict. The new locations are considered safe from future flooding.
- Sufficient funding has been received to enable the building of additional wells. As such, an additional six wells will be constructed. Tender is currently out for potential suppliers. It is anticipated that materials for the new wells will be on site by mid-October.
- In the immediate aftermath of the flooding, communities were vulnerable to health threats, exacerbated by a lack of unsafe drinking water. CVTL has made 100 wells safe for use. Villagers have also received 2,000 mosquito nets. The need for an additional 1,000 additional nets was identified and these are being distributed. 1,000 jerry cans are also being distributed to families so that they can collect and secure safe water for drinking and cooking.

Provision of shelter materials (4 District)

Providing shelter materials to the most affected families in four districts - Baucau, Ainaro, Viqueque and Maliana - was one of the core activities of the appeal. The government generally has the major role in rebuilding lives of the affected families. However, lack of resources and difficulty in service delivery proved a constraint. With good partnership and recognition of its role and experience of working with people in such situations, CVTL was requested to provide supplementary assistance. To date CVTL has delivered 280 sets of shelter materials to the four districts. A housing construction demonstration was conducted to improve building techniques. A further 103 sets of housing materials are being procured after an appropriate revision was made to the budget. They should be distributed by mid October.

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

Achievements:

- Sixteen volunteers have been trained by a local builder who was engaged short term on structure design and construction techniques of the shelters. The volunteers have since been working with affected families in the four districts to construct 12 model houses. The housing demonstration provides an opportunity for the affected families to learn about improved constructions with the intent that they will be able to build their own structurally-stronger homes. To date, families are in the process of building their own houses. Some have already moved into their 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 in CVTL's complementary role to the government. However, this increased to 383 sets of shelter materials (incorporating an additional 183) after a re-assessment and the government's struggle 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 are being adequately assisted.

Achievements:

- The increasing mobility of CVTL staff and volunteers who are directly involved in the operation has contributed hugely to progress. The first sets of construction materials have been distributed to 280 families in the four districts according to standard procedures.
- A team of volunteers has been tirelessly working with affected communities to construct demonstration houses. Affected families are being taught improved construction techniques as well as awareness on where to build their new homes. To date, families are completing their homes while some have already moved in.
- Following re-assessments, extra sets of materials were required to support additional families enlisted. Because of the response to the appeal CVTL will be able to scale up its support to more people affected. As such, 103 extra sets of housing materials are being procured. It is anticipated that materials will be delivered to CVTL by mid October and then transported to the four districts.

Water and Sanitation

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

The enclave district of Oe-cusse was one of the hardest hit. There was damage to several houses but in most cases, the communities were able to do the repairs themselves. Water was the main concern as approximately 100 deep wells were contaminated by heavy flooding. To date, the wells have been cleaned and are being used by communities. A detailed assessment was carried out and seven new, safer locations for deep wells were identified and built.

A further assessment and follow up was done recently and the need for even more wells was recognised. With sufficient funding received, an additional six wells will be built. Procurement of materials is underway after recent tenders. Materials will be delivered by mid October and installation of the wells by CVTL water technicians will follow.

National Society Capacity Building

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

The emergency operation and the recent internal conflict happened in Timor-Leste is a huge challenge for CVTL in terms of its response and response preparedness. It is recognised that ongoing support to strengthen CVTL's disaster management is needed to consolidate the improvement witnessed during the reporting period. As Timor-Leste is vulnerable to natural, technological or social/political disasters, it continues to strengthen its organizational capacity and resource base and be supported to do so. The Federation country delegation has focussed its effort on ensuring that national society capacity is developed and response preparedness mechanisms

are in place. This operation and the recent civil conflict have helped CVTL to learn from these events and develop disaster management responses.

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, branch volunteers and staff of the affected districts were trained in standard disaster assessment, procurement of supplies, relief management, and the utilization of appropriate forms such as the emergency assessment checklists, beneficiaries sheets, family record sheets and standard information management and reporting systems.
- A ten-day intensive training of the national disaster response team was conducted. A total of 36 volunteers and staff were trained. The trainees form the national disaster response team, which is being equipped with the required tools. The regional delegation in Bangkok provided a regional trainer in disaster response and preparedness in support of the training.
- Preliminary work has started to formulate a CVTL disaster plan and contingency plans. The arrival of the disaster management delegate will support progress on improving preparedness mechanisms.
- Following the emergency operation and recent conflict, there has been significant improvement of CVTL coordination with other stakeholders, specifically with the national disaster management office of Timor-Leste. Information sharing and discussion of functions prior and during disasters is a priority.

Federation Coordination and overall challenges

The Federation country delegation, with support from the regional disaster management unit in Bangkok, continues to support CVTL implementation of the emergency operation. Regular meetings and follow up are coordinated by the head of delegation with CVTL counterparts to monitor progress and ensure smooth coordination.

The delegation also continues to provide technical support in training/organizational development and development of volunteers in preparedness and response. The regional delegation in Bangkok has supported the training. As result, a national disaster response team was formulated and trained. The curriculum was in accordance with the Federation syllabus and covers areas related to preparedness and response. The formation of the team is a major development for CVTL.

Despite the progress made over the last two months in reaching the affected communities, CVTL will continue to face challenges, which include:

- Mobilization of resources: several needed supplies are difficult to find locally, especially timber which has to be imported.
- The timely delivery of supplies to affected families has been difficult. Poor road conditions, distance between locations, ongoing bad weather and insecurity continue to affect the operation. With the next sets of water and construction materials procured, it will be a challenge to get them on site. This may be an outstanding issue come the end of the operation in seven weeks.
- The CVTL disaster management unit struggled to provide adequate services because of limited human resources and expertise. Furthermore, the ongoing security disturbances and the large number of internally displaced people (IDP) in Dili and the regions severely strained the capacity of CVTL. Activities in support of IDPs reduced its ability to work elsewhere in terms of this emergency operation and other more routine support.

Income and Expenditure Summary against pre-revised budget, as of 30 September 2006
Appeal No: MDRRTP001
Appeal Amount: CHF 569,685
Updated as at 30 September 2006

Donor	Local Currency	CHF approx
American RC	USD 50,000	64,950
Danish RC	DKK 200,00	39,100
Finish 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 Govt/NZID	NZD 150,000	125,280
Norwegian RC	NOK 539,874	109,493
Swedish RC	SEK 500,000	82,750
America Care via NYO		3,136.50
Total Contribution for the appeal		709,840.90
Total appeal coverage		124.60%
Expenses as at 30 August		349,372.73
Expenses against budget as at 30 August		61.33%
Balance as at 30 September		360,468.17

Note:

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

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>

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

REVISED BUDGET SUMMARY

Annex 1

East Timor - Strong Winds & Flash Floods

MDRTP001

	ORIGINAL VALUE IN CHF	REVISED VALUE IN CHF	VARIANCE VALUE IN CHF
<u>RELIEF NEEDS</u>			
Shelter & Construction Materials	300,500	312,810	-12,310
Clothing & Textiles	16,000	2,500	13,500
Seeds & Plants	26,000	2,250	23,750
Water & Sanitation	13,000	15,932	-2,932
Utensils & Tools	0	18,312	-18,312
Other Supplies & Services	0	2,500	-2,500
Total Relief Needs	355,500	354,304	1,196
<u>CAPITAL EQUIPMENT</u>			
Vehicles Purchase	38,565	90,000	-51,435
Computers & Telecom Equipment	12,860	23,723	-10,863
<u>TRANSPORT, STORAGE & VEHICLES</u>			
Storage - Warehouse	3,855	3,244	611
Transport & Vehicles Costs	7,725	29,712	-21,987
<u>PERSONNEL</u>			
Regionally Deployed Staff	23,526	53,612	-30,086
National Staff	23,145	9,010	14,135
Consultants	3,850	9,823	-5,973
<u>WORKSHOPS & TRAINING</u>			
Workshops & Training	36,520	35,492	1,028
<u>GENERAL EXPENSES</u>			
Travel	5,750	5,739	11
Office running costs	1,545	4,281	-2,736
Communication Costs	515	2,258	-1,744
Other General Expenses	19,300	42,503	-23,203
<u>PROGRAMME SUPPORT</u>			
Programme Support - PSR	37,030	46,140	-9,110
Total Operational Needs	214,185	355,537	-141,352
Total Appeal Budget (Cash & Kind)	569,685	709,841	-140,156
Less Available Resources		709,841	
Net Request	569,685	0	