

EMERGENCY APPEAL



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

Appeal no. MDRTP001
23 February 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

THIS EMERGENCY APPEAL SEEKS CHF 569,685 IN CASH, KIND, OR SERVICES TO ASSIST 8,400 BENEFICIARIES FOR 6 MONTHS

[\(click here to go directly to the attached Appeal budget\)](#)

Operational overview: This emergency appeal is in response to a series of storms and floods in Timor-Leste over the past month or so. The ongoing extreme weather has hampered assessments in affected communities, which are mostly isolated and scattered over a wide area. Assessments have now taken place and the Cruz Vermelha de Timor-Leste is at the forefront of efforts to help the thousands of people affected. This emergency appeal seeks international backing in support of these efforts.

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>

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For longer-term programmes, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal.

The situation

Several districts in Timor-Leste have been hit by storms since mid-January. The district of Oecusse has been one of the hardest hit, affected by continuous floods. To date, more than 1,200 houses have been damaged / destroyed, and at least 100 wells contaminated. 3,158 farmers have suffered loss of crops, such as corn and rice. In addition, there has been extensive loss of livestock. The number of affected families is expected to increase because of the ongoing heavy rains across the region.

Oecusse: the Timor-Leste enclave located on the coast of the Indonesian part of Timor was ravaged by floods. Heavy rains caused the river Tono to swell, destroying sections of the river bank that protects the adjacent villages. More than 500 families have been directly affected through damage to housing and crops. Strong currents in the Tono river caused livestock, such as horses, cows, pigs, buffalos and chickens, to perish. More than 100 wells were contaminated resulting in limited potable water supply for communities.

Oecusse is in a highly vulnerable area. Its remote location compounds this vulnerability. It is accessible only by ferry (15-hour trip) or UN helicopter from the capital Dili twice a week. Local transportation is a challenge, given the scattered nature of communities and lack of roads. Communication with the district is difficult because of poor telephone coverage. Electricity and fuel supplies are often interrupted. Such a scenario exacerbates health risks, such as malaria, dengue and tuberculosis. A similar disaster three years ago led to a cholera outbreak and 21 deaths.

The districts of **Ainaro, Viqueque, Maliana, Bobonaro** and **Baucau** were exposed to storms, destroying or damaging houses, particularly roofs. Ongoing rain means that several families are continue to be exposed to the elements. Food crops were also destroyed.

Access to these districts is by road. Logistics is a problem because of the scattered nature of communities and damage/destruction to roads caused in the storms. The power supply in the affected areas is limited and in many cases has not been restored. Communication remains problematic throughout the districts.

There are fresh reports that the districts of **Ermera** and **Manufahi** have also been exposed to storms, but the situation there has not yet been assessed (as of the issue of this appeal).

Towns	Number of Affected				
	Families	Persons	Houses Damaged		
			Permanent	Semi	Traditional
Ainaro	257	5,573	31	241	104
Oecusse	556	2,553	2	170	
Bobonaro	337	1,240		3	
Baucau	59	243		25	33
Viqueque	56	280		56	
TOTAL	1,265	9,889	33	495	137

Red Cross and Red Crescent Action

Oecusse

In Oecusse, Cruz Vermelha de Timor-Leste (CVTL) volunteers participated in an early assessment, coordinated by the local government. To date the team has distributed 500 mosquito nets.

In addition to the assessment team, CVTL deployed an emergency response/water and sanitation team to Oecusse. The team, joined by local volunteers, found at least 100 wells (for drinking water and domestic purposes) are contaminated in Samora and Lisu-Cesta villages. Other areas are still not reachable. The continuous rains imply a risk of more wells being exposed and possible re-flooding of others. The team is in the process of cleaning wells, in cooperation with Oxfam and the local government. The process is time consuming (two wells per day) and will require ongoing support to provide potable drinking water to all beneficiaries.

The Federation health delegate supported the CVTL team. The delegate has since been replaced by a regional disaster response team (RDRT) member from the Philippines National RC with expertise in relief and assessment. This should strengthen CVTL's operational capacity.

Ainaro, Viqueque, Bobonaro and Baucau

CVTL has completed a rapid assessment of the destruction in all four districts. Assessment teams will continue monitoring of food and possible seed provision. This should ensure ongoing support to the affected population. This will be coordinated with WFP and FAO.

A team led by CVTL's disaster management coordinator is on the ground in Ainaro. It has completed initial training for villages from all affected districts on appropriate housing reconstruction. A locally qualified engineer supported this initiative, which went ahead despite heavy rain. The team will continue an assessment of needs for reconstruction materials for up to 650 households. CVTL staff and volunteers will assess adjacent districts, subject to initial reports on the impact of the disaster.

The Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) allocated CHF 200,000 to support the CVTL's immediate response to this disaster.

Immediate needs

Oecusse

1. Cleaning of wells.
 - CVTL will play a significant role in this part of the operation.
2. Purification / water storage equipment
 - The 200 families reported to be most at risk will need purification tablets and Jerry cans
3. Food and seeds
 - There will be a need for such provisions within a few weeks.
 - WFP Dili has enough food in store to meet needs. However, assistance is required for distribution and further assessments.
 - CVTL volunteers in the Oecusse district will be trained in appropriate assessment and distribution techniques.
 - FAO will provide seeds for distribution. CVTL will cooperate with FAO in this area, subject to identified needs.
4. Monitoring of the health situation
 - There will be a need to monitor the situation until the wet season is over as well as to observe the need for additional assistance in the form of food distributions. Oecusse volunteers will be trained in monitoring.
5. Mosquito nets
 - The waterlogged land is a breeding ground for mosquitoes. Oxfam is providing 8,000 nets and CVTL aims at complementing this coverage with 2,000 nets.

The initial assessment from Oecusse indicates the damage to housing is limited and there is no current need for reconstruction assistance. The local villagers will undertake any repairs themselves. However, ongoing assessments will determine if any additional need is required.

Ainaro, Viqueque, Bobonaro and Baucau

1. Reconstruction materials / tools

- The Government is providing construction materials for the repair of damaged houses, however it has requested supplementary assistance from CVTL
- At present, CVTL will provide roof-plates and wood for 200 houses. More support will be subject to ongoing assessments.
- In addition to the materials provided by the Government, CVTL will provide appropriate fixing materials and equipment in the form of wood screws and spanners to 450 families.

2. Reconstruction support / guidance

- Education on appropriate roof design and construction is required. Currently most families have constructed roofs that are too flat. They also use nails that can not withstand strong winds. CVTL has engaged a civil engineer for the training project, which involves villagers and local leaders as well as volunteers from all districts hit by the storm. An example of appropriate roof construction/reconstruction will be prepared in all villages hit by the storm, to educate all the villagers in improved construction techniques.

3. Food and seeds

- There will be a need for provisions within a few weeks.
- WFP and FAO have the provisions needed, barring special food for vulnerable groups
- CVTL staff and volunteers will monitor the ongoing need for food and seed distribution in coordination with the Government, WFP and FAO. Future CVTL assistance will be limited to specific areas found to be particularly needy.

4. Monitoring of the health situation

- CVTL staff will monitor the health status of beneficiaries in the affected districts to determine the impact of the food/seeds provision. Recommendations for future assistance within this area if needed will be determined based on monitoring reports.

CVTL will continue to undertake assessments of other districts affected by the storms to see if additional support is required. Subsequent updates will reflect this.

Longer-term needs

Oecusse will require support for the ongoing provision of safe potable drinking water sources, primarily through the rehabilitation of existing ground water wells. The rehabilitation of contaminated ground water sources is expected to take up to six months.

Ainaro, Viqueque, Bobonaro and Baucau appear to have a long term need for agricultural assistance, with a view to assessing crop protection and or alternative crops that are more wind resistant. In addition education on improved construction techniques is also required.

Coordination

The Ministry of Labour and Solidarity is the lead agency for responding to disasters. CVTL and the Federation Delegation are supporting the Ministry in coordinating meetings with all partners including WFP. The operation in the present appeal has been developed in close cooperation between CVTL and the Federation.

In **Oecusse** the Government is now playing an active role, while sharing information with all actors in Dili. CVTL and the Federation have also taken the initiative to bring humanitarian organizations together. Effective information exchange is taking place. CVTL's Oecusse operation is in close coordination with the government, Oxfam and Caritas Australia.

In **Ainaro, Viqueque, Bobonaro and Baucau**, CVTL is working in conjunction with local government representatives and the Ministry of Labour and Solidarity in Dili.

The proposed operation

Provision of immediate relief assistance (non-food)

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

Planned activities:

- CVTL staff and volunteers identify/select and register beneficiaries
- 1,000 jerry cans (20 litres) and 2,000 mosquito nets procured
- Items transported and distributed
- Monitoring, evaluation and reporting

Shelter (4 districts)

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

Planned activities:

- Coordination meetings with the local government units and local communities to present the purpose of the training
- Preparation on training including presentations, venue, selection of demo houses, and schedules
- Training / reconstruction
- Monitoring, evaluation and reporting

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

Planned activities:

- Identification/selection, registration of 200 families for comprehensive support, including wood, roof-plates, wood-screws, washers and spanners
- Identification/selection and registration of 450 families for limited support, including wood-screws, washers and spanners
- Procurement of building materials
- Transportation and distribution to the target beneficiaries.
- Monitoring, evaluation and reporting.

Water and sanitation

Objective 1: Communities in Oecusse have secured source of potable water.

Planned activities:

- Identification/selection and registration of beneficiaries
- Rehabilitation of ground water wells
- Procurement and distribution of purification tablets
- Training community members on handling of potable water sources and the use of purification tablets
- Transportation and distribution of purification tablets.
- Monitoring, evaluation and reporting following Federation standards.

National society capacity building

Objective 1: Strengthened national society disaster management capacity

Planned activities:

- Organising and training of volunteers from all branches on Disaster Response Team concepts and standards, operational procedures, including assessment, distribution and monitoring.
- Develop monitoring plans for volunteers in all disaster hit areas.
- Provision of transport for monitoring
- Field visits/ Information collection
- Training on proper reporting system particularly at CVTL HQ and branch level.
- Assessment of ongoing needs.
- Procurement of 4x4 Land Cruiser Pick-up.
- Procurement of desktop computers/ accessories, printer, fax machine and other office materials

Communications – Advocacy and Public information

CVTL has tried to draw public attention to the disasters and the ongoing operations. The press was alerted about the activities in Oecusse. However, the media are in general hesitant to go there because of the logistic problems. Three journalists from Dili went to Ainoro to watch CVTL's reconstruction training project. CVTL staff also brought a video camera to provide film for national TV.

Capacity of the National Society

The CVTL Disaster Management Unit led by a DM Coordinator, is still young, but has staff and volunteers capable of delivering quality services. However, for an operation comprising a minimum five districts, reinforcement is needed. The RDRT member deployed from the Philippines Red Cross is enhancing the CVTL's capacity significantly in the short term. Longer term external support in DM for the duration of the operation will be required. This will be met through deployment of regional expertise from sister national societies in South-East Asia. CVTL benefits from a good standing with the government of Timor-Leste, both centrally and in the districts.

Capacity of the Federation

The International Federation's Timor-Leste Delegation comprises a Head of Delegation, health delegate and organisation development delegate as well as a DM programme officer. The team possesses the experience needed to give CVTL important support. The health delegate will ensure that health aspects are duly addressed, and the OD delegate will ensure that experience from the operation is utilized in an organizational development perspective. In addition, the Philippines Red Cross RDRT member is supporting the national society.

The Federation's Regional Delegation in Bangkok also provides technical expertise, including DM, logistics, health, water and sanitation, information and reporting. The secretariat in Geneva also offers support in conjunction with the Regional and Country Delegation.

Logistics and communication

The required goods, services and materials will be tendered and purchased locally and transported by road and boat. Possible procurement in other areas or countries will be subject to local availability and cost as prices in Dili are high. Transport to the sites accessible by roads will be included in the tendering. Communications in the area are poor and this appeal includes costs for reinforcing communications capacity and equipment.

Budget summary

See Annex 1 for details.

Susan Johnson
Director
National Society and Field Support Division

Markku Niskala
Secretary General

BUDGET SUMMARY
TIMOR-LESTE : Strong Winds & Flash Floods - PTP501

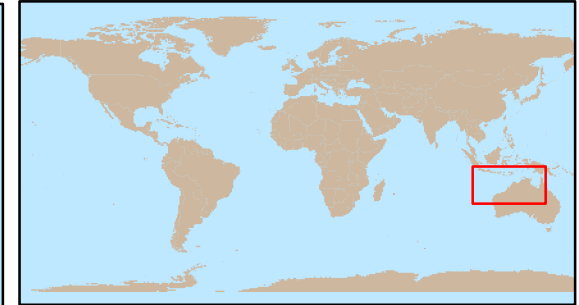
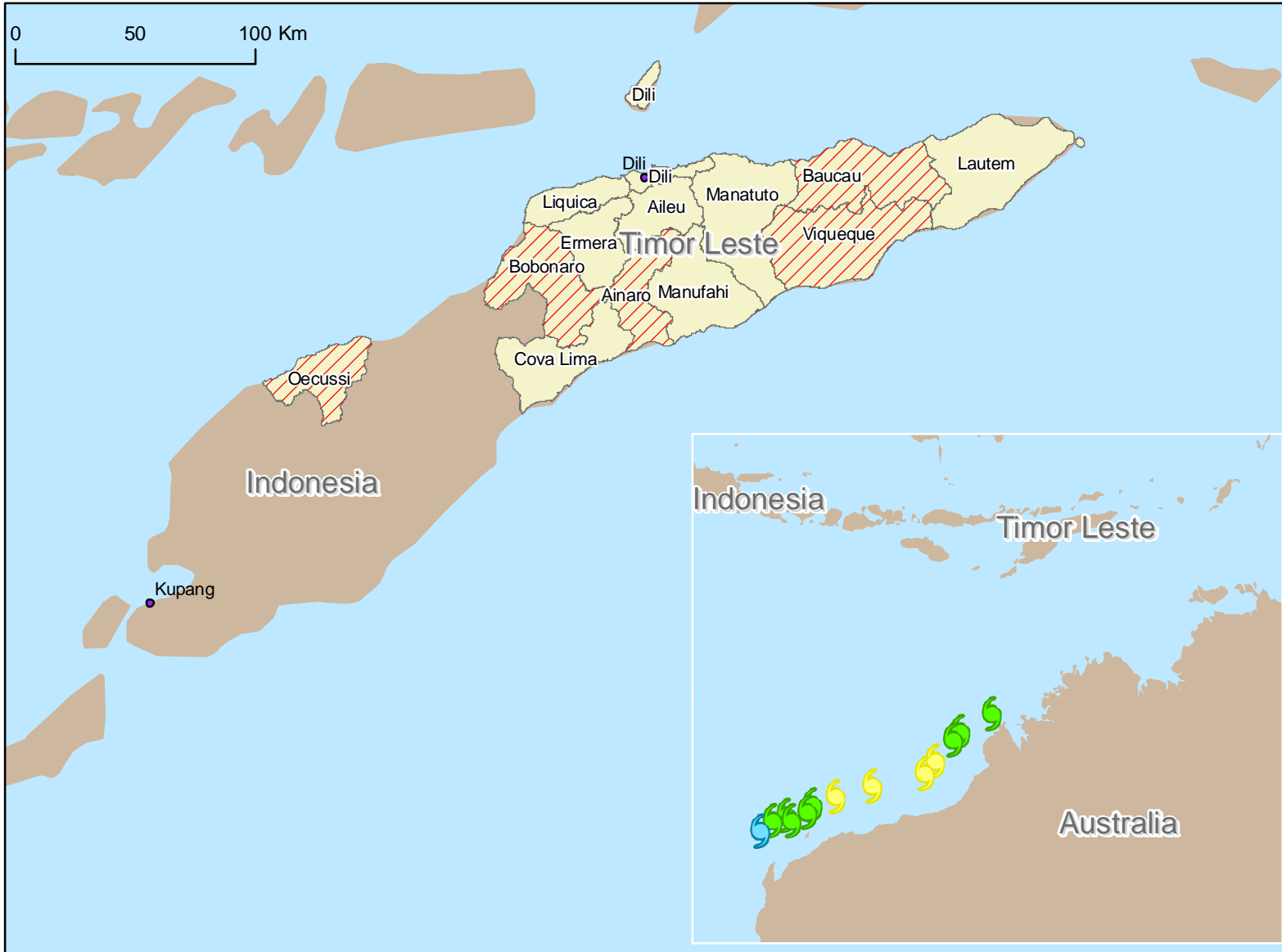
Appeal No.

MDRTP001

TYPE	VALUE IN CHF
RELIEF NEEDS	
Shelter & constructions	300,500
Clothing & textiles	16,000
Food & seeds	26,000
Water & sanitation	13,000
TOTAL RELIEF NEEDS	355,500
<u>CAPITAL EQUIPMENT</u>	
Vehicles	38,565
Computers & telecom equipments	12,860
<u>PROGRAMME SUPPORT</u>	
Programme support (6.5% of total)	37,029
<u>TRANSPORT STORAGE & VEHICLE COSTS</u>	
Distribution & Storage	3,855
Transport & vehicle costs	7,725
<u>PERSONNEL</u>	
Regional staff	23,526
National staff	23,145
Consultants	3,850
<u>WORKSHOPS & SEMINARS</u>	
External Workshops & Seminars	36,520
<u>ADMINISTRATIVE & GENERAL SERVICES</u>	
Travel & related expenses	5,750
Office running costs	1,545
Communication costs	515
Administrative & general expenses	19,300
TOTAL OPERATIONAL NEEDS	214,185
TOTAL APPEAL CASH, KIND, SERVICES	569,685
LESS AVAILABLE RESOURCES (-)	0
NETT REQUEST	569,685



Timor-Leste: Strong winds & flash floods



- Main cities
- Districts
- ▨ Affected districts

Tropical cyclone DARYL

- ☄ Cyclone
- ☄ Tropical depression
- ☄ Tropical storm

The maps used do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies or National Societies concerning the legal status of a territory or of its authorities.

Map data sources: ESRI, DevInfo, Unisys