

PROGRAMME 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

EAST TIMOR

21 May 2003

Appeal No. 01.60/2003

Appeal Target: CHF 626,737 (USD 460,328 or EUR 428,978)

Programme Update No. 1; Period covered: January to March, 2003

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 180 countries. For more information: www.ifrc.org

In Brief

Appeal coverage: 29%; for details please refer to the Contributions List for this and other appeals available on the Federation's website.

Outstanding needs: CHF 446,858 (USD 328,210 or EUR 305,858)

Programme Summary: As the East Timor Red Cross (Cruz Vermelha de Timor Leste/CVTL) moves closer towards achieving the ten conditions for official recognition in the country, its image as a major player in the humanitarian field has similarly grown. Through various public campaigns and activities CVTL has distinguished itself as an important voluntary organization, with more volunteers than any other group in the republic. The national society's first aid and water and sanitation programmes, in particular, have had a notable impact on the lives of local communities.

Operational developments

Since December 2002, when looting and rioting broke out in the East Timorese capital of Dili, police and military forces have controlled the security situation in the impoverished republic. Border areas, in particular, have started to be more closely monitored. During the quarter, a tense atmosphere continued to reign in Dili as sporadic outbreaks of violence occurred in the capital as well as other locations throughout the country. Poverty has continued to rise and, in recent months, the lack of satisfaction with the year-old government has become increasingly evident.

Police have, since the start of the year, also taken control of East Timor's immigration services. Furthermore, the escalating numbers of illegal immigrants has seen increased restrictions for visitors, in particular those from the South East Asian region. Visas and permits, limited to 30 days and available at US\$ 25, are now required for entry into the country.

Health and care

Goal: The general health condition of the East Timorese population-and particularly vulnerable groups- is improved

Objective: The capacity of CVTL to deliver quality health services to the most vulnerable in the communities is enhanced, through the establishment of a professional and effective health department

Progress/Achievements

Expected results

1. The health condition of the rural population in three districts is improved through the provision of clean water sanitation facilities and hygiene promotion
2. A fully-fledged first aid curriculum is developed, including community services
3. HIV/AIDS awareness activities reach out to all the sectors of the community and particularly young people

The water supply project in Tibar village, which started in 2002, has encountered a number of difficulties with construction and thus delayed completion of the system to the end of the second quarter. In January two new water projects were initiated in the districts of Same and Bobonaro, with local community participation.

Bilateral funding contracts were signed between CVTL, the local agency in charge of water and sanitation coordination (Water Sanitary Services/WSS), and the Australian Red Cross, covering water and sanitation needs under the Federation Appeal until the end of 2003. In January, CVTL visited several districts to help select villages where sanitation and health education programmes will be implemented later in the year. Some 45 volunteers were trained in health and sanitation in two villages and in the districts of Viqueque and Same, during which draft educational materials were produced and tested. Further training of 15 volunteers in Maliana district will be held in April.

Visits to five secondary schools in Dili to coordinate implementation of the HIV/AIDS peer education project were carried out during the quarter. Branches in Ainaro Same and Dili were also selected for peer education projects, with training provided to 40 volunteers.

Various activities have been coordinated with the Ministry of Health and the World Health Organisation (WHO). CVTL has also established a health department and recruited a head to manage the programme; first aid and community based first aid coordinators also joined the team recently. Plans for the programme were revised in March 2003. Using information gathered from the Indonesian Red Cross, UNICEF and WHO, CVTL has started to translate a health lifestyle manual into Tetun.

Impact

The water supply projects have benefited approximately 3,000 people, some 410 families, throughout the country. The health education programme, which comprised information on malaria, hygiene, control of tuberculosis and diarrhoea, construction of latrines, immunisation, installation of mosquito nets, and protection of water sources, has benefited about 110 families in four villages. With the new health team in

place, coordination and communication has improved between branches, volunteers, authorities and other organisations such as WHO, UNICEF and Family Health International (FHI).

Constraints

The lack of qualified human resources has caused a delay in the implementation of all projects. The first aid project was not implemented as planned due the delay in recruiting a coordinator. Translation of manuals into the national language, Tetun, has been difficult because of the oral and not written tradition of the language. Resistance from religious authorities also continues to affect discussion and promotion of condom use, which in turn limits effectiveness of the HIV/AIDS programme. The national society has continued to work together with the Ministry of Health and UNICEF to identify solutions to this dilemma.

Disaster Management

Overall goal: The impact of natural and man-made disasters on the most vulnerable people in East Timor is reduced.

Objective: A role is identified and a basic foundation and capacity developed for the CVTL to respond to disasters accordingly.

Progress/achievements

Expected results

1. The CVTL develops a strategic plan for disaster management
2. The CVTL has initiated community based pilot projects

During the quarter, a draft strategic plan for CVTL was completed and voluntary capacity assessment (VCA) training carried out for 23 staff and volunteers from eight districts.

Impact

The national society has been granted authorisation to work in disasters in the country - in assessment, distribution of aid, first aid, shelter, tracing and hygiene and sanitation. This was stated formally in a publication issued by the National Disaster Office entitled 'Disaster Map in East Timor'.

The quarter also saw branches start to identify their major vulnerabilities, using the VCA process.

Constraints

Due to the lack of resources full implementation of both projects has been delayed.

Humanitarian Values

Goal: There is a heightened awareness of, and support for, the promotion of humanitarian values in East Timor.

Objective: The CVTL develops a sound and effective communications function, based on the plans prepared in June 2002.

Progress/achievements

Expected results

1. Internal and external communication systems and structures are enhanced in CVTL

2. CVTL develop solid relations with local media, community, external partners and stakeholders

The local media, including Television Timor Leste and Radio Timor, covered various CVTL activities in Dili, including the creation of branches in Manatuto and Viqueque and clean-up campaigns of local markets and beaches. In March, a public awareness campaign during the visit of a popular Portuguese football player raised the national society's image in East Timor (see article published on Federation website, 12 March 2003). Articles about CVTL activities were also published in the local Portuguese newspaper, *Correio de Timor*, during this time.

Monthly meetings have been held with branch coordinators, and CVTL headquarters staff and volunteers informed of new activities through the office noticeboard, which continues to be updated weekly. A general information brochure on CVTL activities has been drafted into Tetun.

Impact

Authorities and the community recognise CVTL as one of the most important local humanitarian players in the country, further endorsed by the president and ministers of health and education during the visit of the famous Portuguese football player in March.

Constraints

Lack of funds for this programme has slowed down its progress.

Organisational Development

Goal: The CVTL has made a measurable progress towards establishment and recognition as a fully-fledged National Society within three years and undertakes a visible role in humanitarian sector in East Timor

Objective: The basic foundation, adequately resource, has been laid to enable the creation of a sound National Red Cross Society in East Timor.

Progress/ achievements

Expected results

1. There is a clear and significant progress towards the development of CVTL as a well functioning national society
2. The CVTL has in place appropriate management structures and skills
3. Financial and resource development systems are introduced to underpin the sustain ability
4. Red Cross youth and volunteer groups are established in Dili and the branches

As mentioned earlier, the first quarter saw CVTL host the visit to East Timor of an international football legend from Portugal, in what turned out to be a landmark event for the country. Together with the Portuguese Football Players Association, and the Portuguese Red Cross, CVTL organised a national football match between the Timorese selection and a team from the Portuguese battalion, attended by the president, prime minister, officials from the Ministry of Education, and more than 12,000 people. The football star also visited schools and districts, distributing footballs and promoting sports. The footballs were a contribution from the Portuguese Red Cross, part of 3,200 footballs donated and distributed to 900 primary schools, 40 secondary schools, 63 youth sports centres, 13 RC branches, and universities and sports associations throughout the state.

Staff regulations are in the process of being updated and contracts have been revised in accordance to new labour laws. Financial systems in the society have also been fully implemented. The national society has identified the cost for all work carried out in the mechanics workshop and now offers its services to the public.

Impact

CVTL is slowly moving towards achieving the ten conditions for its official recognition in the newly independent state. Management and financial systems of the national society have also improved in the quarter. With more volunteers than any other organisation in East Timor, CVTL has quickly gained recognition as an important voluntary organisation in the country. The visit of the legendary Portuguese football star has clearly increased the national society's image and visibility.

Constraints

Funding resources are insufficient to run the programme effectively.

Federation Coordination

Goal: Cooperation and communication between CVTL and partners is enhanced.

Objective: CVTL and its partners share common goals and objectives.

Progress/achievements

Expected results

A cooperation agreement strategy for CVTL is developed with buy-in from all partners

The Federation has assisted CVTL coordinate programmes with various international agencies including the WHO, UNHCR, UNICEF and FHI, specifically on HIV/AIDS, first aid, and health education. It has also collaborated with ICRC on dissemination and tracing projects, and worked with the Ministries of Health and Education on activities related to peer education, sports and youth, health education, and first aid.

Bilateral partners working in East Timor now comprise the Korean and New Zealand Red Cross Societies, supporting health and care programmes; Swedish Red Cross, collaborating on OD; Portuguese Red Cross, working with volunteers, health and environmental projects; and the Australian Red Cross, supporting water supply projects. The British Department for International Development (DFID) also has a presence in the country, supporting various health and OD initiatives.

Impact

With the programme in its early stages, any objective assessment in this area would be too soon.

International Representation

Goal: CVTL and its partners have leading roles in national and international fora respectively.

Objective: There is increased international and governmental support for RCRC activities in the country, especially for CVTL programmes.

Progress/achievements

Expected results

The CVTL and its partners have strengthened their position to work in support of the most vulnerable in East Timor.

In September 2002, parliament approved the signing of the Geneva Conventions and the two additional Protocols. The national society has since been following up an official letter from the East Timorese government to the Swiss government depositary, to formally lodge these legal documents.

A document on Red Cross laws, prepared by the CVTL board of governance with help of the Federation and ICRC, has been prepared for submission to the Council of Ministers and parliament.

Impact

CVTL has been invited to the Federation's General Assembly later this year, as an observer. Similarly, the East Timor government has been invited to participate in the next International Red Cross Red Crescent conference.

Constraints

The process of formalising the Red Cross position in East Timor has been slow but good, requiring sustained contact between the Red Cross Red Cross Movement in East Timor and local authorities.

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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 (SPHERE Project) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

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