

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

12 December 2003

Appeal No. 01.60/2003

Appeal Target: CHF 626,738

Programme Update No. 3; Period covered: July to September 2003

The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilising the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organisation and its millions of volunteers are active in over 180 countries. For more information: www.ifrc.org

In Brief

Appeal coverage: 47 %; See Contributions List for details.

Outstanding needs: CHF 351,577

Related Emergency or Annual Appeals: N/A

Programme Summary: Progress on the adoption of the Red Cross and emblem law by the East Timor government and the development of national society statutes has brought the East Timor Red Cross (Cruz Vermelha de Timor Leste/CVTL) closer to admission and recognition by the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement. Recruitment of more than 330 volunteers through the CVTL health programme has constituted a valuable community level resource for establishing local Red Cross structures, thus expanding the coverage of CVTL in the country.

Operational developments

UNMISSET, aiming at complete withdrawal in May 2004, is gradually scaling down their military presence. The situation in the border areas is largely quiet, but there is widespread uncertainty in East Timorese society about this transition and what the security situation will be in the future.

The East Timorese government is no longer advocating the establishment of an international tribunal for prosecution of serious crimes committed prior to independence. A strong local human rights NGO, the HAK Association, is, however, pursuing the issue.

Health and Care

Overall goal: To improve the general health condition of the East Timorese population - particularly vulnerable groups.

Objective: To enhance the capacity of CVTL to deliver quality health services to the most vulnerable in the community, through the establishment of a professional and effective health department.

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; and
3. HIV/AIDS awareness activities reach out to all the sectors of the community, particularly young people.

Progress/Achievements

CVTL's health programme was further strengthened with two headquarters' health staff trained in programme design, planning and development.

The health department at the national head quarters was able to identify key health volunteers at branch level to support implementation of the first aid and community-based first aid (CBFA) programmes in the field.

This quarter's main event was a seven-day introductory CBFA training course, held 10-16 August for 15 participants from eight out of thirteen districts. Two experienced first aid trainers from PMI (Indonesian Red Cross) conducted the training, which was CVTL's first experience with external trainers. PMI's readiness to support CVTL has proven very valuable for health programme development.

The first aid manual was reviewed by the trainers and recommended for revision.

Two national headquarters health staff attended the 15th ART (Asian Red Cross and Red Crescent Task Force on HIV/AIDS) network meeting and strategic planning workshop as observers in Bali, gaining experience from their own presentations on East Timor developments and CVTL HIV/AIDS activities, as well as participation in the process of developing strategic plans.

The water and sanitation programme continued, supported by the Australian Red Cross and CWSSP, an Australian agency mandated to coordinate water and sanitation projects for the government. In addition, CVTL received requests for water supply from more than 50 communities.

NHQ health staff visited branches for monitoring and preparation for the CBFA training. The head of the Federation regional health visited CVTL in July, whereas the regional health delegate visited in August and September as part of regular follow up.

Impact

An additional 180 families in Liquica district (Tibar village) have benefitted from the water project since the last update. A three-day first aid session was organised for 22 community members in July in the same village.

At a follow-up activity of the introductory CBFA course in August, CVTL volunteers in Manatutu and Maliana organised a first aid and health education session, inviting 29 and 30 community members respectively.

27 CVTL volunteers provided support to doctors engaged by the government on the East Timor Defense Force (FDTL) celebration (five-day arrangement) in Waimori in August. First aid and basic health care were provided at the community health centre and through two mobile units for 3,000 people, while emergency patients were referred to the Baucau Hospital.

More than 60 volunteers offered first aid services at public / sporting events. The number of requests from the government exceeded the capacity.

125,000 youth received information on first aid and the Red Cross Movement through the children's health magazine "Lafaek".

Constraints

Selecting qualified participants for the national CBFA training was difficult due to the low level of qualifications among the interested volunteers in the districts. Many had never made any kind of presentation before. Basic knowledge on primary health care is in general very limited in East Timor, and the volunteers reflect this situation. This poses a general challenge and necessitates adjustments to curricula. The originally planned CBFA Training of Trainers (ToT) course in August was changed to a CBFA introductory course. Only the best three participants from this training were found to be qualified for ToT in future.

A more intensive two-week first aid training course was planned for November, to be followed by a five-day ToT in December.

Knowledge of English among volunteers is limited. Inviting PMI trainers to conduct training in Bahasa proved successful as all participants understood Bahasa fairly well. (Tetun is commonly spoken while Portuguese is the national language). Presentations / discussions were still partly conducted in Tetun with a translator.

CVTL needs more support on programme development in addition to general health programme management.

Disaster Management (DM)

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

Objective: To identify a role and develop a basic foundation and capacity for the CVTL to respond to disasters accordingly.

Expected results:

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

Progress/achievements

Three staff members attended a DM planning workshop in June / July, and the CVTL DM officer participated in regional disaster response training in Jawa in July.

The Disaster Manual was translated from English to Tetun.

Constraints

Lack of resources and the absence of a Federation representative delayed the programme throughout the period.

Humanitarian Values

Overall goal: To heighten awareness of, and support for, the promotion of humanitarian values in East Timor.

Objective: To develop sound and effective communications within CVTL, based on plans prepared in June 2002.

Expected results:

1. Internal and external communication systems and structures are enhanced in CVTL; and
2. CVTL develops solid relations with local media, community, external partners and stakeholders.

Progress/achievements

No particular achievements during the period.

Constraints

As with the disaster management programme, the lack of funds and absence of a Federation representative have slowed progress.

Organisational Development

Overall goal: To ensure CVTL makes measurable progress towards becoming an established and recognised national society within three years and undertakes a visible role in the humanitarian sector in East Timor.

Objective: To lay the basic foundation, adequately resourced, to enable the creation of a sound National Red Cross Society in East Timor.

Expected results:

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

Progress/Achievements

Expansion of CVTL's branch network continued, with one new branch office established during the period. There are now a total of four branch offices outside Dili.

A training centre in sub-branch Ailieu, funded by Singapore Red Cross, was completed in July.

CVTL's income generation showed decline, as the training room and mechanics workshop brought in less income for the national society.

The secretary general participated in a programme planning and management workshop in Jakarta in August.

The number of volunteers kept increasing.

A new Federation representative was appointed..

It was decided that a joint ICRC/Federation team would undertake an assessment of CVTL's current situation and capacity in December, with a view to development of a plan of action towards possible recognition as a member of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in 2005.

Impact

The expansion of branch offices and increased number of volunteers are building up CVTL's geographical coverage.

Constraints

CVTL is not yet formally established in accordance with the Federation's statutes. CVTL's board as well as management considers this a handicap, both in terms of stability, decision making and planning. There is a strong wish to move forward with the required organisational development.

Federation Coordination

Overall goal: To enhance cooperation and communication between CVTL and partners.

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

Expected results:

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

Progress/achievements

Both the PMI and the Federation delegation in Jakarta continued to support CVTL, as did the Bangkok regional delegation.

Constraints

Development of a cooperation agreement strategy (CAS) depends on the development of a CVTL long - term strategy. The board, which today consists of only 5 committed members, needs a strengthened mandate and additional human resources for this process to start.

International Representation

Overall goal: To promote a leading role in national and international fora for CVTL and its partners.

Objective: To increase international and governmental support for Red Cross Red Crescent activities in the country, especially for CVTL programmes.

Expected results:

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

CVTL's attendance at international events and meetings increased during the period.

Progress/achievements

One CVTL staff member participated in the youth directors meeting in Manila in September.

The draft Red Cross Recognition Law and Emblem Law process was not progressed during the period.

Impact

Progress in adoption of the Red Cross and Emblem Law by the East Timor government and development of national society statutes will bring CVTL closer to its establishment and recognition.

Constraints

Lack of follow up on the law process seemed related to the lack of a Federation representative in East Timor, as CVTL appeared to need more hands-on support than was available.

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

For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, please access the Federation website at <http://www.ifrc.org>