

FINAL REPORT



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: FOOD INSECURITY

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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 181 countries.

In Brief

Minor Emergency history:

- Launched on 22 March 2005 for 4 months to assist approximately 4,000 beneficiaries. Period covered: 22 March 2005 to 31 July 2005
- Disaster Relief Emergency Funds (DREF) allocated: CHF 50,000.

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Background and summary

In March 2005, some 4,000 people experienced a second month of acute food shortages which began in January in the Hatu Builico sub-district, Ainaro district. Delayed rainfall and recurrent crop failure in some parts of the country exacerbated the annual food shortages in rural areas that generally follow the harvest cycle. In the worst affected area of Hatu Builico, the primary cause for acute food shortage has been the massive failure of the potato crop – the main cash crop of the community there. The resulting need among the affected communities to borrow money led to some lenders charging interest rates as high as 100 per cent on two-month loans. Affected communities included the hamlets (aldeia) of Querudo, Blehito, Mau Lahulo, Manumera in the village (suco) of Mulo; and, the hamlets of Hatu Builico, Massuromata, Queorema, and Laquico in the village of Nunumogue.



When their potato crops failed, the communities of Hatu Builico were faced with a dire shortage of food. The food supplies provided by CVTL will sustain them until the next harvest.

At that point, these communities had already been facing hunger for two months, subsisting on a single daily meal of beans, vegetables leaves and yam. Many households had depleted their supplies of beans, and people had resorted to eating boiled plant leaves with salt. Infants, children and lactating mothers were among the hardest hit in this dire situation while poor overall levels of nutrition and health exacerbated the situation.

An assessment mission confirmed the acute food shortage and resulting hunger in Hatu Bulico, which were caused by a succession of crop failures. This aggravated the already vulnerable condition of the communities. However, the situation in Same had not reached critical proportions. Although the impact of the drought had caused damage to crops, there were enough resources for the community to cope with the existing situation.

Another assessment mission was conducted in Ermera district to verify reports of similar situations of food shortage and hunger in the upland communities. No acute shortage was found.

Based on the assessment and needs analysis, the CVTL developed a response to the crisis in Hatu Bulico, aimed at addressing immediate needs. In addition, the national society decided to develop a community-based long-term livelihood project, which will be part of CVTL's disaster management programme from 2005 onwards.

Coordination

CVTL carried out this operation with valuable local support from the sub-district administrators in Hatu Bulico. An agreement was formed between CVTL and World Vision to carry out a health survey there.

Analysis of the operation - objectives, achievements, impact

Emergency relief (food and basic non-food items):

Objective 1: Provide assistance sufficient to help the population affected by food shortage in Hatu Bulico through the worst period.

Scope of assistance

The first quarter of the year is frequently accompanied with food shortages. In this case, CVTL established that a single food support operation was the most efficient means to support the beneficiaries' needs, the logic being that the provision of a package of basic food items to 700 families was intended to provide the beneficiaries with the necessary food assistance to sustain them until the next anticipated harvest. Longer-term initiatives such as livelihood projects are required in order to contribute towards the general improvement of food security in the area.

Implementation

The findings of the 25 February 2004 assessment carried out by the CVTL's disaster management coordinator and six volunteers from Ainaro Branch established the need for an intervention.



Though a fledgling society, CVTL efficiently managed food distributions to some 4,000 beneficiaries, creating new ties with the communities.

This preliminary assessment was followed up on 23 March with a house-to-house assessment identifying 754 families (3,770 people) in need of food support. Some 16 volunteers, most of whom had received basic disaster management training, carried out this assessment under CVTL leadership.

The Federation's regional delegation in Bangkok supported a staff-on-loan from the Philippine National Red Cross, who spent six weeks in Timor-Leste assisting CVTL with the preparations for and implementation of activities.

Based on the findings of the house-to-house assessment in March, each of the 754 beneficiary families was provided with 25 kg of rice, 4 cans of sardines, 5 packets of noodles, 2 litres of vegetable oil, 5 kg of sugar and 2 kg of salt.

The distribution of the food items took place from 28-30 April at three distribution points: Manumera, Hatu Bulico and Queorema communities.

In total, 20 volunteers from Dili and Ainaro participated in the distribution. The CVTL volunteers delivered exemplary work, showing both commitment and talent in the organization of distribution points/approaches. A number of them had to brave nights without shelter under harsh conditions. Representatives from the Ainaro branch also participated, and the district administrators from Hatu Bulico attended the distributions.

Budget

The financial statement shows three issues of note. The costs of food were far less than that estimated by CVTL, as the national society is newly formed and is still developing its expertise with implementing food operations. At the same time, transportation was more expensive than budgeted, as a result of compensation to the International Organization for Migration (IOM) for the use of its trucks. Purchasing a four-wheel drive vehicle was also more expensive than originally anticipated but was, nevertheless, necessary.

Achievements and impact

The operations went according to plan and as such the objective was met as CVTL was able to provide approximately 4,000 people with assistance during the most difficult period of the country's food shortage.

Although food shortages in Hatu Bulico are a yearly phenomenon, this year's occurrence was significantly worse than usual. The project revealed a clear need to help the villagers improve their livelihood, as is CVTL's plan.

Through the food support operation, CVTL has strengthened their standing with the local community. The opportunity was also used to conduct presentations for the villagers on the national society, the Red Cross Movement and its principles. At the operation's start many people believed that CVTL was a part of the government but the educational activities acted as a forum, rectifying this common misconception among the general public. Relationships established with the local community through this project will benefit the livelihood project which is being implemented as a follow-up to these activities.

National society capacity building

The operation was a valuable experience, both to CVTL staff and the many participating volunteers. The national society will have improved competence to manage this type of emergency should it strike again.

Lessons learned

A lessons learned workshop was held by CVTL with the support of the regional delegation's disaster management unit upon completion of the operation. Volunteers and branch representatives, together with CVTL staff, participated in this meeting. Key findings from the workshop include:

- Staff-on-loan from sister societies represent a new and useful concept;
- Geographical conditions and widespread population mean that operations place heavy demands on time and human resources;
- Communication systems between the field and headquarters need improvement;
- The headquarters' disaster management coordination needs improvement;
- Both CVTL staff (some of them newly engaged/transferred from health) and volunteers need more training;
- There is a need for trucks and personnel transportation vehicles;
- Not enough staff at branch level;
- CVTL needs a contingency disaster plan with clear roles and procedures;
- The available assessment formats need further development; and
- Warehouses at district level are needed.

CVTL intends to draw on the lessons learned by adjusting its disaster management programme for 2005 and its plans for 2006/2007.

[Interim Final Financial Statement below; click here to return to the title page and contact information.](#)

Selected Parameters	
Year/Period	2005/1-2005/7
Appeal	M05ME017
Budget	APPROVED

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Consolidated Response to Appeal

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
Budget (A)		50'000				50'000
Opening Balance (B)		0				0
Income						
Reallocations (within appeal or from/to another appeal)						
DREF		50'000				50'000
Reallocations (C2)		50'000				50'000
Total Income (C) = SUM(C1..C5)		50'000				50'000
Total Funding (B + C)		50'000				50'000

II. Balance of Funds

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
Opening Balance (B)		0				0
Income (C)		50'000				50'000
Expenditure (D)		-49'067				-49'067
Closing Balance (B + C + D)		933				933

Selected Parameters	
Year/Period	2005/1-2005/7
Appeal	M05ME017
Budget	APPROVED

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

III. Budget Analysis / Breakdown of Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance A - B
		Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation		
A							B	
BUDGET (C)		50'000					50'000	
Supplies								
Food	21'469		12'314				12'314	9'155
Total Supplies	21'469		12'314				12'314	9'155
Land, vehicles & equipment								
Vehicles	8'704		12'544				12'544	-3'840
Computers & Telecom	1'741		2'615				2'615	-874
Others Machinery & Equipment	580							580
Total Land, vehicles & equipme	11'025		15'159				15'159	-4'134
Transport & Storage								
Transport & Vehicle Costs	754		4'287				4'287	-3'533
Total Transport & Storage	754		4'287				4'287	-3'533
Personnel Expenditures								
Delegate Benefits			461				461	-461
Regionally Deployed Staff	6'463		2'974				2'974	3'489
National Staff	1'857		5'041				5'041	-3'184
National Society Staff			143				143	-143
Total Personnel Expenditures	8'320		8'619				8'619	-299
Workshops & Training								
Workshops & Training	1'161		389				389	772
Total Workshops & Training	1'161		389				389	772
General Expenditure								
Travel	2'931		2'026				2'026	905
Office Costs	711		1'097				1'097	-386
Communications	351		60				60	291
Financial Charges	28		6				6	22
Total General Expenditure	4'021		3'189				3'189	832
Program Support								
Program Support	3'250		3'189				3'189	61
Total Program Support	3'250		3'189				3'189	61
Operational Provisions								
Operational Provisions			1'922				1'922	-1'922
Total Operational Provisions			1'922				1'922	-1'922
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	50'000		49'067				49'067	933
VARIANCE (C - D)			933				933	