

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

16 September 2002

Appeal No. 01.32/2002

Appeal Target CHF 378,254 (USD 253,000/ EUR 258,000)

Programme Update No. 1

Period covered: 01 January - 30 June 2002

“At a Glance”

Appeal coverage: 88.4%

Related Appeals: South East Asia regional programmes 01.30/2002

Outstanding needs: CHF 43,830

Update: Donor response has been good and as such the preparatory committee of East Timor Red Cross has been able to develop into an active supporter of vulnerable people in the nation. This early progress was most visible during the independence day celebrations in May when 90 volunteers - trained in first aid and evacuation - were on duty during the three weeks of events.

Operational Developments

The world's newest nation celebrated its independence on 20th May 2002. Representatives from more than 90 countries and six heads of state, including the presidents of Indonesia and Portugal, the previous US president, and the prime minister of Australia, commemorated the memorable and emotional event with more than 200,000 Timorese people. Now a new and more challenging battle awaits this nation of 800,000 inhabitants - the struggle for economic independence.

East Timor is officially Asia's poorest country with an annual per-capita income of \$500. Unemployment in the main urban centres of Dili and Baucau hovers around 90%. The country's development plan, weighted towards health and education, appears to have won support from 29 donor countries who, in mid-May, pledged financial aid in excess of \$440 million to East Timor over the next three years. To ensure continued peace for the fledgling nation, United Nations peacekeeping forces (some 5,000 military and police personnel) are committed to remain in the country for a further two years. International NGOs and humanitarian organisations, however, continue the process of withdrawing from East Timor - a clear indication the nation's emergency phase is over.

In January, the preparatory committee of East Timor Red Cross (CVTL) approved priorities over the next two years based on a capacity building programme for establishment of a National Society. Since then, CVTL has

participated in several regional meetings and workshops, hosted visits by a number of sister societies (notably South Korea, Australia and Singapore), and with support of regional technical delegates, conducted a health and care (including water/sanitation) assessment, established administrative and logistics systems, and conducted the NS's first communications workshop.

During the same period ICRC scaled down its operations and, in mid-April, officially handed-over the water/sanitation programme (started in 1988) to CVTL. Some equipment and vehicles were also donated.

Disaster Response/Preparedness

Objective 1 :

CVTL contributes to the mitigation of disasters within two years in those communities with Red Cross supported water projects.

Activities:

No activities developed during this period.

Objective 2 :

CVTL has the capacity within two years, to provide initial relief to the victims of disaster.

Activities & achievements:

No major disasters occurred during this period. Since March, the government's national disaster management office has been monitoring the possibility of drought caused by the El Nino phenomenon. In this regard, meetings were held with the national disaster management committee to revise contingency plans in the event of floods, landslides and drought.

The most significant activity during this period related to preparations by CVTL, together with the Ministry of Health, UN peacekeeping forces, and the local fire department, to provide first aid services to the public during independence day celebrations. Nearly 90 volunteers and staff were trained in first aid/evacuation procedures in April and May. From February to May a weekly exercise was conducted by CVTL, during which 50-80 volunteers planted trees and cleaned the Dili seashore to raise environmental awareness in the community. For three weeks in May, first aid services were also provided to the community during sports competitions, parades, festivals, concerts, and public gathering.

Constraints :

Unavailability of first aid materials and equipment in East Timor; and lack of financial resources to purchase relief supplies and to hire staff for CVTL's disaster management programme.

Humanitarian Values

Objective 1:

A strong and well-developed communications capacity.

Activities & achievements:

In March, the Secretary General of CVTL participated in the East and Southeast Asia regional communications network meeting in Macau. Subsequently, a local staff from ICRC was appointed CVTL's dissemination officer. In mid-June the Asia-Pacific regional information unit organised a communications workshop in Dili for 16 participants from CVTL. Participants, including selected ICRC and water/sanitation programme staff and new CVTL volunteers, were introduced to the rudiments of communication with focus on increasing CVTL's visibility through links with the media. The workshop concluded with development of a draft communications action plan for CVTL in 2002/2003. During this period, the Federation provided computer equipment and Internet access to the NS .

Objective 2

Strategic links with media to secure sustained and high profile media for the activities of the CVTL.

Activities & achievements:

Throughout the reporting period, contact and visits were initiated with both the local and international media in Dili. In consultation with CVTL, the Federation's Regional Delegation in Bangkok produced a simple appeal brochure on the NS's activities. In May, the Federation posted a website story on first aid services delivered by CVTL during independence day celebrations.

Objective 3 :

Heightened awareness of RC activities in the country by external stakeholders

Activities & achievements:

Contacts established with transitional authorities, UN offices, embassies, international NGOs and other members of civil society.

Health and Care

Objective 1 :

CVTL develops sufficient capacity to initiate health projects based on identified needs of the primary health care programme.

Activities & achievements:

In February, a three-week assessment carried out by the regional health unit confirmed the need for a comprehensive health and care programme in East Timor. During this period, ICRC's water/sanitation programme was officially handed over to CVTL. The bilateral programme is now funded by Australian Red Cross. CVTL also cooperated with the Department of Health, WHO and UNICEF on HIV/AIDS activities including: training of volunteers in peer education, participation in a National HIV/AIDS conference, preparation of a funding proposal to address the topics of malaria, TB and HIV/AIDS, and discussions on a national plan to combat the threat of HIV/AIDS and STD's.

Objective 2:

Improve the level of basic health and care services for the most vulnerable in three communities within three years.

Activities & achievements:

CVTL has an active water/sanitation programme which, during this period, ran projects in Dili and three rural communities. In May, two water/sanitation coordinators from CVTL participated in a regional water/sanitation workshop in Lao PDR. In April and May, CVTL also conducted first aid training courses for nearly 90 volunteers in Dili.

Organisational Development

Objective 1 :

CVTL is a recognised member of the Movement within four years.

Activities & achievements:

Several meetings were held with government representatives to discuss the need for, and process of, developing a Red Cross Society in East Timor. Also ongoing were discussions with ICRC regarding the signing of the Geneva Conventions by CVTL.

Constraints :

East Timor declared Independence in May 2002; prior to that it was not possible to obtain agreement or approval on the official status of CVTL from East Timor's transitional authorities.

Objective 2 :

CVTL has a functional management structure with appropriate representation of men and women within three years.

Activities & achievements:

In January, the regional OD officer assisted CVTL with human resource issues including: preparation of staff job descriptions, production of administrative materials, training of administration staff, and support during hand-over of ICRC water/sanitation programme. A visit in February by staff from the Indonesian delegation, established basic logistics systems for the NS and produced pro formas in the local language, Tetun.

CVTL's management structure, approved in February, was put into place in April. Renovation of a warehouse, formerly belonging to ICRC, was completed in June and now serves as CVTL's official headquarters. It includes six offices, two classrooms, a meeting room, a radio communication room, toilets, kitchen, and a parking lot. Sections of the warehouse have also be reorganised to house equipment for the water/sanitation and relief programmes. During this period, the Federation also provided materials, furniture and equipment for various volunteer and youth activities.

Objective 3 :

CVTL has a governing body within three years.

Ten of the 15 members of the CVTL Preparatory Committee created in July 2000 are now employed as local staff, working in logistics, administration and the water/sanitation programme. In order to recruit suitable new Committee members, formal meetings was held in May and June with 12 new community participants (six women and six men). Further meetings are planned in the next quarter for the selection process.

Objective 4 :

CVTL has a three year development plan

Activities & achievements:

Implementation planned for 2003

Objective 5 :

CVTL has at least three branches in within three years

Activities & achievements:

Implementation planned for end 2002.

Objective 6 :

CVTL has a sustainable resource base to cover core costs within three years

Activities & achievements:

To mobilise resources from the community, CVTL has initiated contact with several government departments, international agencies, and embassies. During this period, income in cash and kind was received from the following organisations in Dili: CHF13,200 cash donation (Portuguese consortium); canned soft-drinks value estimated at CHF17,600 (Customs Services); CHF1,000 from rental of CVTL classrooms (UNICEF); and CHF17,000 as sponsorship of a CVTL water project (Australian Embassy). Discussions are now underway to convert the CVTL mechanic workshop into a business enterprise, with vehicle repair services open to the public.

Coordination and Management

Objective 1 :

Effective overall coordination and management of Federation supported programmes in the country

Activities & achievements:

Since May, coordination meetings have been held weekly with ICRC to replace the previous security meetings. The MoU, between Federation and ICRC, was extended to July 2002. In the lead up to independence day celebrations, joint preparations were made between all parties of the Movement. The Federation provides office space (shared with the water/sanitation coordinators) and telephone line access to the Australian Red Cross bilateral delegate.

Objective 2

Coordinated approach with the regional technical teams and NS

Activities & achievements :

Initial talks have been held between CVTL and both the Singapore and Korean Red Cross Societies regarding PNS staff/volunteers working with the NS. Also in preparation is a cooperation agreement between Indonesian Red Cross (PMI) and CVTL for future visits by PMI to East Timor. The Federation representative participated in regional OD meetings in February and May and has since had cooperation with Lao Red Cross on volunteer matters. Future plans include organising an introductory course on Better Programming Initiatives with the Regional Delegation Bangkok/Indonesian Delegation.

Objective 3 :

A well managed delegation

Activities and achievements :

In March, the Federation moved to an office on CVTL's premises and has since purchased basic office equipment for the National Society, including computers, stationery, furniture, and materials for volunteers.

Objective 4 :

Effective representation in advocacy

Activities and achievements :

In May, the Federation representative participated in a World Bank organised donors meeting in Dili. Regular contact has been established with government departments, diplomatic missions, UN agencies, international and local NGOs. The Representative has participated in relevant meetings on HIV/AIDS, STDs, TB and malaria.

Objective 5 :

Harmonious and close working relations with ICRC

Activities and achievements :

During this period Federation cooperated with ICRC on the hand-over process of the water/sanitation programme to CVTL and received logistics support from ICRC when purchasing equipment and materials from Indonesia.

Objective 6 :

Coordinated relationship with partners, donors and PNS

Activities and achievements :

Meetings included the regional partnership meeting in March, and ongoing discussions with government bodies, UNICEF, WHO, embassies, international and local NGOs.

Outstanding needs

With 88.4 per cent of the appeal budget covered, further cash contributions are needed to maintain the planned level of activities.

For further details please contact:

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All International Federation Operations seek to adhere to the Code of Conduct and are committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (SPHERE Project) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

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

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East Timor						ANNEX 1
APPEAL No. 01.32/2002		PLEDGES RECEIVED				13.09.2002
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
CASH						
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				378'254		TOTAL COVERAGE 88.4%
CASH CARRIED FORWARD				171'223		
NORWEGIAN - RC		100'000	NOK	18'606	08.02.2002	OD
SWEDISH - RC		25'000	SEK	4'030	22.04.2002	ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
SWEDISH - GOVT		300'000	SEK	47'430	30.05.2002	
SWISS - RC				3'235	27.12.2001	ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
CAPACITY BUILDING FUND				89'900		PTP001
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				334'424	CHF	88.4%