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Emergency Plan of Action (EPoA) Timor Leste: Drought

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DREF Operation n° MDRTP004	
Date of issue: 18 April 2016	Date of disaster 1 April 2016¹
Operation manager: Pascal Bourcher Community safety and resilience Coordinator, IFRC CCST Jakarta	Point of contact: Hermenegildo Cardoso Rente, DM Coordinator, Cruz Vermelha de Timor-Leste (CVTL)
Operation start date: 15 April 2016	Operation end date: 14 August 2016 Expected timeframe: 4 months
Overall operation budget: CHF 215,752	
Number of people affected: 170,000	Number of people to be assisted: 13,300 (2,660 families)²
Host National Society(ies) presence (n° of volunteers, staff, branches): 90 Volunteers in 3 participating Branches, 36 Staff	
Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners actively involved in the operation (if available and relevant): Consortium of ICRC and PNS (Australian, American, British, New Zealand and Finnish RC)	
Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation: Ministry of Social Solidarity, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Plan International, Care, Oxfam, World Vision	

A. Situation analysis

Description of the disaster

As a result of the ongoing strong El Niño weather anomaly, the annual rainy season (normally during November/December) has been delayed, leading to a deterioration in the frequency of rainfall which is affecting the production of maize (down by 40%) and rice (down by 57%) across the country. This directly impacts the lives and livelihoods of some 170,000 people in rural areas³.

The Humanitarian Partnership Agreement (HPA) Agency [Assessment](#) on El Niño effects in Timor Leste in February 2016 has just projected that the 2015 El Niño is worse, or of a similar scale to that of 1997-98. The humanitarian community has been raising the awareness of El Niño and working with Government to define its scale and potential impact. WFP has completed a livelihood atlas that has the potential to inform the more specific location and impact of the drought on livelihood groups and the FAO and Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MoAF) have recently completed the data collection of a crops and harvest report that will likely be published in April.

The initial findings from these reports conclude that the El Niño has impacted significantly on the water, food security agriculture and livelihoods across the country, and without targeted actions it will likely result in an acute food and livelihood crisis⁴.

¹ While the situation has developed over some time, CVTL and IFRC consider 1 April being the trigger date for submitting this DREF request. On that day, the HCT meeting noted that the situation had gotten worse and all humanitarian actors needed to act promptly to alleviate the conditions of affected people.

² Including 20,000 people (4,000 households) targeted with hygiene promotion

³ FAO – El Niño preparedness and response march situation report.

⁴ Integrated Food Security Phase Classification. www.ipcinfo.org

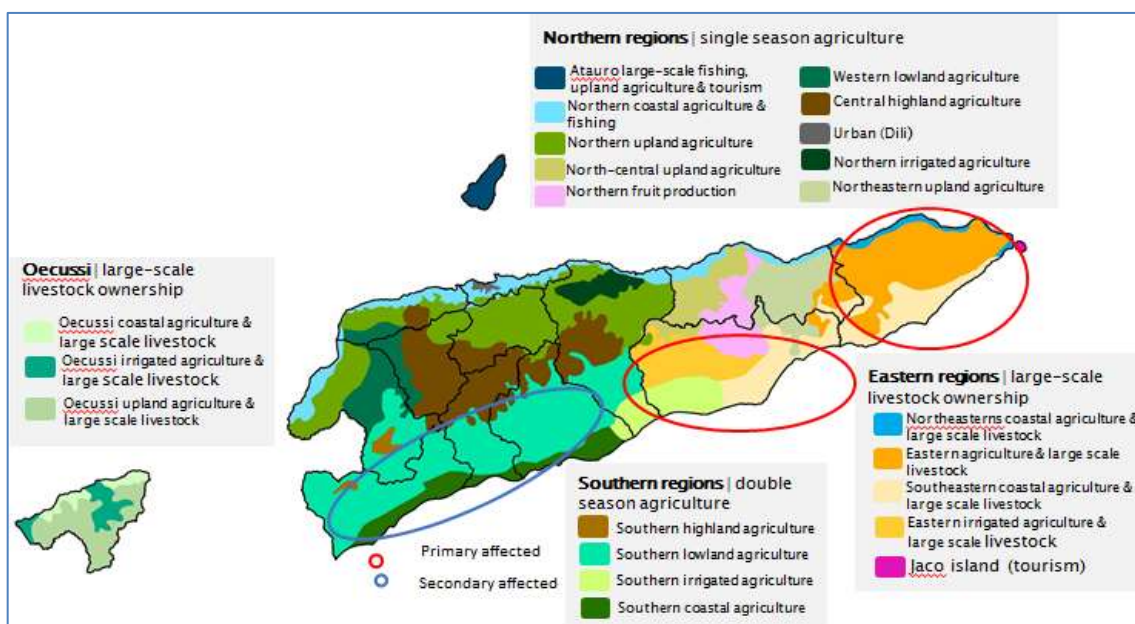


Figure 1: Map of Timor Leste divided by livelihood zones and with the worst regions affected by El Niño Highlighted.

The lowland coastal areas of Eastern Baucau, Lautem, and Southern Viqueque have been identified as worst affected areas with continual lack of rainfall.

An estimated of 170,000 people are at risk of malnutrition and poor health conditions if assistance is not provided within the coming months. This is a result of the loss of harvest, death of livestock and continued lack of rain that has depleted the quality and quantity of portable water. This situation is likely to worsen and persist until early August 2016.

Some communities who are experiencing sporadic rainfall are able to replant short duration crops (as part of the second cropping period). The El Niño will affect largely communities that are more reliant on livestock and single season farming. The loss of livestock for many communities is also the loss of their “banked” wealth and will have an impact on the ability for households to send their children to school and pay other annual expenses. Livestock are also used for tilling the land and their loss will make it harder for farmers to return to replanting.

Summary of the current response

Overview of Cruz Vermelha de Timor-Leste (CVTL) response

CVTL developed a contingency plan for the El Niño response outlining the capacity and resources for responding to the impacts of an El Niño. CVTL has been monitoring the situation and actively supporting the assessments of the impact of the El Niño situation. It has been coordinating with the Government to ensure the role of CVTL is clear to the different Government actors and has been actively participating in the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) meetings.

A total of 36 CVTL staff members and 90 volunteers are ready to be mobilized for the response. As part of the on-going integrated community based risk reduction (ICBRR) and nutrition programmes, CVTL is providing a range of services, including mother child nutritional awareness, health and hygiene education sessions and WASH, in the target communities. The National Society is now reviewing its preparedness stock and increasing its capacity to support the needs of at least 20,000 people (4,000 households).

CVTL’s volunteers are also on standby to support their community leaders to prepare household level assessments and ensure needs are clearly identified and communicated to the respective local authorities. The findings from the assessments will further inform the formulation of an extensive plan of action, potentially beyond this DREF operation.

Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in country

The CVTL works with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and the International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC) and is supported by the American, Australian, British, Finnish, Italian, Korean, Japanese and New Zealand Red Cross Societies. Majority of these partners are already supporting the ongoing ICBRR and nutrition programmes, and there are greater interest in expanding the support (multilateral or bilateral) to the El Niño response, though no funding commitments are made yet.

Movement Coordination

The IFRC Country Cluster Support Team (CCST) in Jakarta, with support from the IFRC Asia Pacific Regional Office, is taking the lead in coordinating and close communication with CVTL and Movement Partners on the response plan for addressing the El Niño crisis.

Overview of other actors in country

As auxiliary to the public authorities, CVTL maintains a strong relationship with Government bodies through participation or collaboration among other with (i) the Ministry of Social Solidarity (MSS; has stock of rice, canned food for distribution to affected communities); ii) National Disaster Management Department (NDMD); (iii) Ministry of Interior (Mol) (the leading government agency in this country-wide response to drought) (iv) Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and (v) the local government authorities.

Further to coordinating with the public authorities, CVTL and IFRC participate in Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) forums held both during disasters and non-emergency times and coordinate with local and international actors present in the country. CVTL and IFRC are involved in relevant sector information sharing, planning, and analysis at all levels while IFRC supports CVTL coordination efforts through representation in other relevant sectors as required. As of the drafting of this plan, the other humanitarian organizations are still finalizing and analyzing the collected data and hence have not come up with concrete action plan. CVTL and IFRC have made sure that the districts targeted in this operation are not covered by other humanitarian organizations.

So far, there has been limited direct action by aid agencies to address the early impacts of the drought- conditions caused by El Niño, Even so, there still remains time to mitigate long term negative consequences.

In October 2015, with support from the National Council on Food Security, Sovereignty and Nutrition in Timor-Leste (KONSSANTIL), the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF) developed 14 key messages which are used to advice farmers through the MAF municipal offices on how to mitigate the effects of late and reduced rainfall. These were widely received by communities, although in the worst affected areas did not prepare the communities for the level of impact felt.

The UN response is restricted by the Government declaration of an Emergency, with WFP, FAO and UNICEF only having adequate resources to monitor the situation. The office of the UN resident coordinator is working well to coordinate the Humanitarian Country Team and is releasing sitreps to ensure open flow of information and hopes to initiate a preparedness and response planning process for the HCT, that can be advocated for use by the Government to address the emerging crisis.

The Government is a part of the HCT and committed to coordinating the response and has important rice grain and prepositioned seed for distribution. Although the Government has not yet shared its plan, it has been keen to ensure clear information on the worst affected areas is presented before moving forward. It is very likely that once all assessments have been presented the government will move quickly to further assess household level needs and begin to distribute rice and seeds.

The Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Environment (MCIE) has procured 9,000 tonnes of rice to respond to increasing market prices due food shortage. This food is normally released onto the market at a subsidised rate in order to reduce the rising costs of basic grain. However it can also be distributed for free to vulnerable groups if the need is determined as high enough. Working closely with the local authorities to track plans and ensure good communication between HQ and the local branches is essential to keep on top of emerging commitments and requests.

CVTL works with CRS on a nutrition programme in two districts and recently participated in a Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries (MAF) and FAO lead crop & livelihood assessment. The findings of the report are due in April and clearly identify geographic scope of the El Niño impact on crops and agricultural livelihoods.

FAO projects have proven that conservation agriculture is an important farming innovation to reduce the impacts of water stress on maize production. This technique helps with water conservation and have proven to yield harvest in locations that would otherwise had failed harvests. The MAF have procured 300 tonnes of seed for distributing to farmers in the coming cropping season.

Needs analysis, beneficiary selection, risk assessment and scenario planning

Needs analysis

To understand better the needs in operational areas, CVTL with support from IFRC undertook a mission to various El Niño affected communities to triangulate findings from agencies also conducting El Niño assessments. Once the mission was completed a response analysis was conducted. Additional assessments will be undertaken and this plan of action will be revised to align the overall community level decisions.

Secondary data and initial assessments

The impact of the El Niño is still emerging but according to initial reports – including HCT updates, FAO, WFP and CVTL district reports – El Niño caused significant loss of crops, livestock in the coastal areas in the East of Timor Leste, leaving affected people in need of assistance, including water, food, health and cash for meeting immediate needs.

Recovery will depend on the extent of losses due to the drought and current rainfall patterns. Due to the high dependence on agriculture full recovery will not be likely until after the next wet season. The immediate priority is ensuring access to safe water and provision of unconditional cash for households to meet immediate needs, along with integrated health and WASH programmes.

Health and hygiene promotion:

Drought reduces access to water and can increase skin diseases and potential diarrhoea outbreaks through poor quality water. Local health units have limited capacity to deliver basic health services, thus CVTL will reinforce health education efforts, focusing on disease prevention.

Water and sanitation:

Water sources have dried up or become contaminated through over use, causing issues related to access to safe water in affected communities. Loss of normal water sources and the increased distance women are needing to travel to collect water has placed an undue burden on them and placed them at risk of increased risk of violence as water access continue to decrease. Open defecation is commonplace, however the limited water access places a risk of hand to mouth contamination. Environmental sanitation activities, particularly cleaning campaigns are necessary as are efforts to improve access to sanitation facilities in schools. Hygiene promotion activities aimed at improving hygiene behaviour and bridging knowledge and practice of safe water, food handling and hand-washing will also be required.

Livelihoods:

The drought has destroyed livelihoods, leaving many families with limited means to meet their basic needs. Food reserves have been depleted and other earning opportunities disrupted or lost. Livestock have perished and remaining animals are not fit for market. Local markets/shops have felt a reduction in trade and many in the affected communities are still closed due to the limited trade. The drought has a negative impact on the maize and rice harvest. As such, there will be a considerable shock to the local economy and food stocks are unlikely to be fully replenished until the next cropping season. Many farmers and casual labourers who depend on agriculture, livestock and fishing have lost a good percentage of their future income and 'banked' reserves. There is the need to support the most affected. While the focus of this DREF-supported response will be meeting the immediate needs of the most vulnerable affected populations, CVTL is analyzing to anchor activities related to recovery and diversification of livelihoods to its long-term integrated community based risk reduction (ICBRR) programme.

Food security and nutrition:

The poor results of the harvest have left communities turning to emergency food supplies in the form of wild foods and coping by reducing meal size and frequency. These sources of food and coping strategies can provide a short-term relief to hunger, however in the long term can be damaging to health of the vulnerable (such as pregnant and lactating women, infants, elderly etc.) and young persons. Expanding existing nutrition programmes to ensure the worst affected by El Niño are not negatively impacted in the long term is a critical component of the response. Provision of unconditional cash will enable the households reached to meet a variety of immediate needs, including obtaining nutritious food available in the local markets.

Beneficiary selection

The main criteria for validation will prioritize most vulnerable households among the populations directly affected by the drought and who have not received any or sufficient assistance from the Government or other organizations. This is a response to the fact that some humanitarian partners are going to assist other districts.

The main group affected by the drought are those that have limited diversity in their income options. These tend to be the families with high dependency ratios, communities away from the main access roads and communities without piped portable water in their village.

In its responses, CVTL will ensure that programmes are aligned with its own as well as IFRC's commitment to take into account gender and diversity, in which elderly, disabled, pregnant and lactating women, women-headed households, and children. Households that have lost all their assets and unable to recover without resorting to risky coping will also be targeted. These groups are more sensitive to changes in food and water access and more susceptible to diseases and infection. Other groups affected are those farmers that have lost their seed and livestock and unable to reinvest in farming.

Scenario Planning

The rainfall in the recent months has led to an improvement in the water access for many communities and for those farmers who were able to replant and have managed to receive adequate rain will be able to mitigate the worst of the food insecurity. Even so, there are still communities yet to receive sufficient rain. Wells have dried up, livestock have perished and livelihood options are limited. With the current scenario and no external assistance, vulnerable households will continue to use coping strategies such as eating less, selling assets, eating and selling 'wild' products and/or borrowing money. There is also a risk of children will be removed from school if feeding programmes do not resume. The above mentioned coping strategies are not sustainable and may lead to further health and nutrition problems as well as further depletion of livelihoods.



Photo 1: In a normal year this should be a mature rice field ready for harvest in west Baucau.

In general, the international agencies in country are mainly development actors, sometimes without adequate capacity of responding to large-scale humanitarian response. This means coordination of the actors is critical to prevent duplication and decrease the likelihood that CVTL will be requested to support non-RCRC movement partners with the scale-up of their interventions.

There has been a continual monitoring of the crop situation and various assessments have taken place outlining the current impacts and potential future consequences on men and women if early action is not taken. Given the 'slow on-set nature' of the El Niño crisis, the triggers for responding to its impact are not clearly defined and there remains a tendency to want more data and analysis before committing to a response. This has meant that early 'no regrets' interventions have been delayed or overlooked. Nevertheless, from the various reports and direct observations, it is clear that the serious negative impacts of El Niño are not uniform across the country and the current challenge of agencies is to identify more specifically the regions and districts more affected so as to prioritize assistance based on resources that can be mobilized.

Driver	Impact
Rain Fall	If rain returns many areas will be able to return to planning quite quickly. Farmers would still need to ensure access to seed. However without rain it will be difficult to return to normal agricultural activities.
Harvest	For those that have managed to harvest something their situation will have improved in terms of their basic access to rice. Consumption will increase, although dietary diversity may not fully return. Those not accessing food crops will rely more on alternative means to access income and food and increase risk of malnutrition and risky coping.
Livestock condition	Livestock provide the banking mechanism for many households. With the rainfall, grazing improves and so does the condition of the animals. Those households that have lost livestock are going to find it more difficult to recover.
Government Action	The direction, resource allocation or complete standstill of activity will change the course of the intervention and/or operational role of the CVTL relative to the government.

Scenario	Sector	Immediate Future Prediction	Mid-Term (3 months) Prediction	Long Term Prediction	Key Assumptions
Most Likely	WASH	After a long period of drought rains are returning, with risk of increased water source contamination from open defecation.	One good and intense rain would be enough to recharge wells and return access to water to the normal situation	Improvement in hygiene practices and better access to water	Communities get better access to piped water and increased number of constructed of latrines
	Health	Skin diseases becoming more problematic and weakened health due to reduced food intake.	Improved access to rain will improve the hygiene and reduce the skin complaints	Investment in health and improvement in nutrition standards and reduction in levels of stunting	Nutrition programmes continue to have an impact and resources available to invest in awareness and training

	Food	Worst affected areas still relying on wild foods and reducing quality and quantity of food intake	No real improvement unless the government intervenes with food assistance or HH able to earn income from sale of livestock or other source	In worse affected areas a full return to normal in 11 months. Earlier if one rice harvest can be achieved in 2016.	That seeds are available and weather remains favorable for farming.
	Livelihood	Few options locally and income is reduced, resorting to unsustainable coping strategies and asset stripping	In worst affected areas, low income & loss of assets. Increased tensions in communities and risks of increased GLBV.	Once able to plant and recover livestock levels. Will return back to normal and focus on investing in children education and future.	Government interventions will address the immediate food and seed needs and not the loss of livestock or income gap.
	Overall Summary	Livelihood crisis in areas not getting rain and irreversible coping strategies undermining long term recovery.	Reduction in water stress, but still few and income options for households without livestock to sell to gain income	Recovery will take place, but some households will be able to recover quicker than others depending on the resources at hand.	Communities remain on the same recovery and development trajectory with minimal external support

Cross Cutting Theme Scenario Mapping:

	Theme	Immediate Future Prediction	Mid-Term (3 months) Prediction	Long Term Prediction	Key Assumptions
Most Likely	Community engagement and accountability	There is strong relations in the communities and CVTL has good trust and ability to effectively access and communities with leaders	This relationship will be strengthened if CVTL can support the local leader data collection and submission to MSS	Can be integrated into the long term ICBRR programme and further strengthen the messaging	That the trust remains between the community and CVTL and local conflict does not manifest.
	Protection	Situation remains stable, with likely increase in localized disputes relating to water management and access	Increased burden on limited households resources may result in increased GLBV and more community conflicts	The situation to not osculate beyond local level disputes and overall the remain calm	The Government will be monitoring the situation, be able to keep law and order and respond to crisis as it emerges
	Environment	Risks to unsustainable natural resource extraction and further land degradation	Increasing reliance on coping strategies can have long term consequences to local micro-climates.	Growing pressure on land and natural resources will require intervention on sustainable approaches	The resource extraction and exploitation will be short-term and agencies will integrate environment
	Gender	Women are most affected as domestic activities are traditionally undertaken by women	Women and girls will be forced to spend more time seeking water and at risk of more disputes	Women still remain relatively absent from community level decision making and need to be engaged actively	Women have the right to voice their opinions openly and they remain responsible for maintain the home and caring for the family.

Risk Assessment

After many years of turmoil Timor Leste is now a relatively calm and peaceful country. CVTL has a good reputation with local communities and is well trusted in the areas of operation. Overall, there are few risks posed to the CVTL DREF-supported operation.

In regards to CVTL response, it is imperative that all CVTL response interventions, conducted in coordination with other actors (whether national authorities or other relief organisations) are based on sufficient needs assessments. It is also imperative that the activities of CVTL operation and its visibility strategy, anchored in the fundamental principles of the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement, are clearly disseminated to the beneficiaries and other stakeholders.

It is possible that physical access to remote areas may pose some security risks due to limited road access and challenging environment, especially during the rainy season. Even so, CVTL and IFRC have security protocols in place to mitigate such risks.

B. Operational strategy and plan

Overall objective

To improve the immediate conditions of up to 13,300 people (2,660 households) affected by drought attributed to El Niño in the districts of Baucau, Viqueque and Lautem through the provision of food, unconditional cash, safe water and sanitation, and hygiene promotion interventions over a period of four months.

Proposed strategy

The operation will target worst El Niño affected areas where CVTL has presence and adequate capacity to respond. The strategy for implementation will be to build on the capacity of the CVTL branches and effectively coordinate with Government and international stakeholders in these operational areas to ensure maximum coverage. The El Niño has had an impact in communities already supported by CVTL through the ICBRR programme, as well as communities outside of the ICBRR focus.

The priority for the intervention will be communities most affected by drought, even so the emergency response is an opportunity to identify new communities to be supported by ICBRR, which would also be an effective way to transition from humanitarian support to an integrated community led risk reduction programme.

In addition to meeting the immediate needs of affected people, the operation will contribute to strengthening the capacity of communities covered by the ICBRR programme by protecting further loss of assets. The relative need of food, water will vary between each community, thus a flexible approach to the operation will be beneficial to allow communities to voice their specific needs and ways to tackle their unique concerns. A community-based approach will be the most appropriate way to ensure resources target affected households that are in most need. Immediate interventions need to address the current adoption of risky coping strategies and should be coordinated with other actors working in the same operational areas as CVTL. All intervention activities will take into account the specific needs of women and elderly as the most affected groups and ensure adequate consultation with women representatives in the design and decision-making for the response.

Additional local level assessments will be needed to ensure the correct groups are targeted with the right resources. This can be done in coordination with the local authorities and community leaders to ensure that CVTL is confident of the information relating to women, elderly and community agreed vulnerable groups are adequately documented. Now is the time to act in order to prevent household falling into a crisis and ensuring an effective recovery from the El Niño phenomenon.

CVTL will mobilize up to 90 volunteers (some CBHFA trained) to undertake local level assessments in the target locations. All data (including at household level) will be disaggregated by sex and age, noting where possible ethnicity and disability or other diversity factors, and will also flag broader needs, such as psychosocial support or gender based violence prevention or response and hygiene and vector based interventions.

Geographically, this operation will cover affected areas across the three districts of Baucau, Viqueque and Lautem. The CVTL will also undertake interventions using resources it has mobilized through the ICBRR programme. IFRC will provide technical support to CVTL in all operational areas within the context of existing coordination mechanisms. Where technical capacities are available within Partner National Societies supporting the ICBRR programme, these will be utilized on the best-paced principle to ensure effective use of Federation-wide resources.

1. Water, sanitation and hygiene promotion (WASH):

CVTL will deploy four water trucking units to Baucau and Lautem districts for two months, or until the start of the rainy season – whichever comes first - and install bladders and tap stands in strategic points at the surrounding areas, enabling safe water provision for up to 13,300 people. Communities will also receive jerry cans (individual) and water tanks (communal: 5,000L or 10,000L) for collecting water from trucks.

10 rainwater-harvesting systems will be installed in 10 affected communities of three districts (Baucau, Lautem and Viqueque) in anticipation of the rainfall (which may come as soon as one month).

CVTL will also collaborate with other partners and government, to rehabilitate community sanitation facilities (i.e. latrines), to reduce health risks in the three districts.

To bridge knowledge and practice, some 90 CBHFA trained volunteers will be mobilized to undertake health and hygiene promotion activities in the target communities. In anticipation of the high risks of Dengue and Zika when the rainy season arrives. These modules will also be included in the IEC materials.

Up to 20,000 people will be reached through water, sanitation and hygiene promotion interventions.

2. Food Security, Nutrition and Livelihoods

The worst affected 500 households will be provided with supplementary food assistance and unconditional cash grants grant of USD 42 (CHF 41) for meeting immediate needs. In addition, training on food nutrition (preparation of balanced diet) and keyhole gardening will be provided to the households.

There are four key aspects that are factored in the strategy for this operation:

- **The National Society leadership:** CVTL is responsible for the overall coordination and implementation of the humanitarian response operation, supported by the IFRC and in-country Movement partners.
- **Flexible community-led response:** The design of the intervention, particularly unconditional cash, will give affected people the flexibility to prioritize their immediate and diverse needs..
- **Integrated programming and resilience-building:** Interventions will aim to relate the long-term recovery / resilience building needs of affected communities. Considerations will be made as to whether these beneficiary communities can (1) continue to extend ICBRR support (if they are already ICBRR programme sites), (2) be considered as new ICBRR programme sites, or (3) be handed over to government / other humanitarian actors for future recovery supported by ICBRR programmes after the end of this operation.
- **Factoring potential for La Nina:** CVTL has recently developed a flash flood contingency plan. This should be expanded to recognize the risks of La Nina and where possible all response activities should factor in the risks of La Nina in their design and implementation.

Operational support services

Human resources

The El Niño response will rely mainly on the existing capacity of CVTL. However, in order to prevent an overburden to the teams the operation will look to call upon the the Regional Disaster Response Team (RDRT) system to support technical aspects of the intervention. One member of the RDRT will be deployed to provide technical support to CVTL.

Where required, additional support by IFRC will be provided via short technical support from the CCST in Jakarta or the Regional Office in Kuala Lumpur.

Logistics and supply chain

Jerry cans will be sourced from existing in-country disaster preparedness stock and the rest of the non-food items and other materials (mosquito nets, tarpaulins, water tanks and bladders) included in this plan will be sourced locally. Local procurement will be done by CVTL with the support of IFRC Regional Logistics Unit (RLU) in Kuala Lumpur and all procurement related to this DREF will be following IFRC standards procurement procedures.

Logistics activities aim to effectively manage the supply chain, including procurement, storage and transportation to distributions sites following IFRC logistics procedures in full audit trail requirement. They also effectively support a fleet to facilitate the movement of operational staff and supplies.

Logistics support to this operation will be provided by the in-country team led by a logistics lead in Dili with the technical support of IFRC's regional logistics unit (RLU) in Kuala Lumpur.

Information technologies (IT)

IFRC supports sustainable skills training and equipment maintenance knowledge of CVTL staff and volunteers. The IT Senior Officer in CCST Jakarta and Regional Office Innovation team are also supporting the CVTL in producing risk/hazard maps to support readiness and planning.

Communications

IFRC, CVTL communications teams will work closely together to develop a common approach towards communicating in order to build public awareness around the humanitarian needs. IFRC and CVTL will continue to agree on key messages and talking points. News stories and blogs together with other social media, interactive maps and infographics will be posted on the IFRC public website and other relevant online media sites. High quality photographic and video material will be produced over the duration of the operation, designed to support the resource mobilization and visibility efforts of the CVTL.

Security

There are no significant security issues or threats for CVTL and IFRC staff, whilst the IFRC security framework will be applicable for this operation. In addition the operation will minimise security concerns within communities by adopting a 'do no harm' approach, in line with IFRC Code of Conduct and Child Protection Policy. As regards CVTL staff and volunteers, the National Society's security framework will apply. Coordination with the HCT and other actors through

regular information-sharing will also aim to minimize risk. All security matters pertaining to Timor Leste will be shared with partners as and when these are available.

Planning, monitoring, evaluation, and reporting (PMER)

Reporting on the operation will be carried out in accordance with the IFRC DREF minimum reporting standards. At least two updates will be issued during the operation's timeframe and a final report within three months of the end of the operation.

The CVTL's PMER Officer is on standby support the DREF operation. Remote support will be provided by the IFRC CCST in Jakarta. If additional PMER support is required, IFRC will explore PMER surge to meet this request. In accordance with the IFRC framework for evaluations, an end-line evaluation (in the form of an internal lessons learned forum) will be undertaken for this operation.

Partnerships and Resource Development

CVTL and IFRC have been in close coordination with both Movement partners and external partners, maintaining close contact and sharing regular updates through fact sheets, information bulletins and teleconference calls. Discussions with partners are being led by the partnerships regional unit with support from the CCST. Coordination with partners during the emergency phase is especially critical, and partnerships surge capacity is available to support both the CCST and the national society. Support and quality assurance services are being provided to partners engaging in the emergency response and this includes support for any potential field trips. Evidence based and analytical materials documenting the Red Cross Red Crescent response will be shared once available.

Finance and Administration

The IFRC, through the department of finance, provides the necessary operational support for review, validation of budgets, bank transfers, and technical assistance to the National Societies on procedures for justification of expenditures, including the review and validation of invoices. CVTL – which is on the working advance system – has been supported for many years by the IFRC and is accustomed to these financial procedures.

The IFRC finance and administration team in Dili and comprises one finance officer, one administration manager and administration assistant and one driver who may also provide transport support in the field when required.

C. DETAILED OPERATIONAL PLAN

Quality programming / Areas common to all sectors

Needs analysis: The operation will support deployment of assessment teams to quickly assessments the local needs of the affected population – which is crucial in informing the development of detailed action plan for CVTL.

Outcome 1: Continuous and detailed assessments and analysis are used to inform the design and implementation of the operation.					
Output 1.1: Needs assessments are conducted and response plans updated according to findings.					
Activities planned	Month	1	2	3	4
Mobilize 90 CVTL staff and volunteers for assessments and surveys		X			
Deploy NDRT to support assessments		X			
Following an analysis of the response plan and beneficiary needs, mobilize teams to carry out community-led discussions and draft strategy for interventions		X	X		
Output 1.2: Additional assistance is considered where appropriate and incorporated into the plan					
Activities planned	Month	1	2	3	4
Assessment refresher training for NDRT and BDRT		X			
Ensure that any adjustments to initial plans are informed by continuous assessment of needs and monitoring of services provided		X	X	X	
Output 1.3: Management and delivery of the operation is informed by an appropriate monitoring and evaluation system					
Activities planned	Month	1	2	3	4
Utilize an appropriate M&E system to support monitoring of the operation		X	X	X	X
Organize a forum/workshop to capture lessons learned in the operation					X

Water, sanitation and hygiene promotion

Needs analysis: WASH is a core competency of CVTL, and a sector that has been developed as part of the ICBRR programme. CVTL delivered water to communities during the construction of gravity-fed water systems and have a knowledge and capacity in the use of the hard ware required to deliver clean effectively. CVTL have already produced locally contextualized IEC materials related to knowledge, attitude and practice on safe water, sanitation and hygiene, with addition of contents in prevention of Dengue and Zika, and these materials can be quickly reproduced for this operation. The operation plans to deploy a WASH RDRT for one month to assist with assessments and to train volunteers to install the rain water harvesting systems.

In Baucau and Lautem, the El Niño has led to complete reduction in water access locally. It is estimated that it will take two (2) months to ensure ponds, wells and other water sources are fully recharged and useable. In the interim, CVTL plans to provide drinking water for target settlements, providing with 3 litres of drinking water (chlorinated) per person per day from springs in a neighbouring district. For the duration of period of up to two months, CVTL will coordinate with the Government for the water trucking activities and provision of water tanks to affected communities.

CVTL focus on hygiene promotion activities will assist vulnerable communities using CBHFA or similar community-based approach messages. Working together with government counterparts and the WASH sector, CVTL will ensure that messages are synchronized with other stakeholders. CVTL will target 10 villages in up to 3 districts.

As rainfall is expected in the coming months (some regions can be within 1-month), CVTL plans to install 10 community rainwater-harvesting systems, identifying suitable locations such as schools or community hall, thereby addressing the longer-term El Niño droughts effects. These communities will receive jerry cans too.

Population to be assisted: 13,300 people will be provided with access to safe water and 20,000 people will be reached with hygiene promotion activities.

Outcome 2: Immediate reduction in risk of waterborne and water related diseases in targeted communities.					
Output 2.1: Daily access to safe water in terms of quantity and quality is provided to target population.					
<i>Indicators:</i>					
a) <i>No. of people provided with safe water according to SPHERE standards</i>					
b) <i>No. of litres safe water distributed</i>					
c) <i>No. of rain water harvesting systems and water tanks installed</i>					
Activities planned	Month	1	2	3	4
Coordinate with local authorities, UN and NGOs to determine level of support needs and maximize coverage		X	X	X	X
Conduct joint follow-up assessments, design approach and procure jerry cans, water tanks		X	X		
Hire and deploy trucks to deliver safe water in 4 target communities for a duration of two (2) months		X	X		
Distribute household jerry cans and community water tanks		X	X		
Installation of 10 rain water harvesting systems		X	X	X	
Output 2.2: Access to adequate sanitation facilities in school and health facilities of the target communities increased.					
<i>Indicators:</i>					
a) <i>% of the repaired sanitation facilities that are regularly cleaned and maintained</i>					
Activities planned	Month	1	2	3	4
Conduct joint and coordinated secondary assessments, design approach and procure materials		X	X		
Mobilize 60 community volunteers, ensuring gender and diversity balance		X	X	X	
Train community volunteers in HP and sanitation to promote recycling and work alongside Red Cross volunteers and other WASH actors		X	X		
Rehabilitation of community sanitation facilities (latrines) in priority locations including hygiene promotion and community messaging in coordination with WASH partners and Government		X	X	X	
Conduct beneficiary satisfaction surveys on WASH services				X	X
Output 2.3: Knowledge, attitude and practice on safe water, sanitation and hygiene by target population increased.					
Activities planned	Month	1	2	3	4
Conduct joint and coordinated secondary assessments, design approach		X	X		
Reproduction of awareness materials and communication methods/ mode of delivery		X	X		
Conduct community-based hygiene promotion activities in affected communities, in coordination with other sectors and partners			X	X	X
Conduct beneficiary satisfaction surveys on hygiene promotion activities				X	X

Food security, nutrition and livelihoods

Needs analysis: In the worse El Niño affected areas households are showing signs of food security through adopting coping strategies such as eating less food, eating fewer meals each day, selling productive assets. The extended use of these coping mechanisms beyond the normal 'hungry months' is unseasonal and will unsustainably stretch household's resources and ability to cope. Without interventions to protect and mitigate further impact on food security and coping strategies, the situation in the communities will deteriorate throughout 2016, until relieved by the 2016-17 wet season. Evidence of the lack of food supplies in these households indicates that this maybe as little as a month away if no new foods are available through crop growth due to the delayed and reduced harvest. The high levels of chronic undernutrition (>50% children under-5)) further complicates the situation. As access to food is still available locally, unconditional cash grants (CHF 41 per household) can alleviate the burden of food spending on communities. In the training of food nutrition, communities would benefit from broadened knowledge about food preparation and nutrition, as well as more innovative production techniques (keyhole gardening) that can produce food with less soil water and households in general would also improve their understanding of nutrition status through targeted education practical demonstrations.

Population to be assisted: 2,500 people (500 households) will be assisted in Baucau, Lautem and Viqueque. The support includes complementary food, unconditional cash grants, training on nutrition and keyhole gardening.

Outcome 3: Urgent nutrition and supplementary needs of targeted populations are met.					
Output 3.1: Target populations are provided with supplementary food assistance and unconditional cash grants for meeting priority household needs.					
<i>Indicators:</i>					
a) <i>No. of households reached with food items</i>					
b) <i>No. of households reached with relief cash distributions</i>					
c) <i>No. of households that have adopted innovative food production techniques after receiving training</i>					
Activities planned	Month	1	2	3	4
Determine the work projects and design community level work plans in line with local needs (meeting with community)		X	X		
Provide training on food nutrition to pregnant and lactating women and promote adaptive food		X	X	X	
Procure and distribute supplementary food items to 500 households		X	X		
Distribute cash grant of USD 42 (CHF 41) to 500 households		X	X		
Conduct beneficiary satisfaction surveys on supplementary food and cash activities				X	X

Budget**DREF OPERATION**

14/04/2016

MDRTP004 Timor-Leste: Drought

Budget Group	DREF Grant Budget CHF
Foods	14,476
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	89,748
Cash Disbursements	20,266
Total RELIEF ITEMS, CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLIES	124,490
Distribution & Monitoring	16,628
Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE	16,628
International Staff	4,825
National Society Staff	13,318
Volunteers	11,773
Total PERSONNEL	29,916
Workshops & Training	25,046
Total WORKSHOP & TRAINING	25,046
Travel	5,211
Information & Public Relations	1,004
Office Costs	97
Communications	193
Total GENERAL EXPENDITURES	6,504
Programme and Services Support Recovery	13,168
Total INDIRECT COSTS	13,168
TOTAL BUDGET	215,752

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Click here

1. **Above** for the DREF Budget
 2. **Return** to the title page
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How we work

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere to the **Code of Conduct** for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in Disaster Relief and the **Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response (Sphere)** in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. The IFRC's vision is to **inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities** by National Societies, with a view to **preventing and alleviating human suffering**, and thereby contributing to the **maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.**

The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:



Save lives,
protect livelihoods,
and strengthen recovery
from disaster and crises.



Enable **healthy**
and **safe** living.



Promote **social inclusion**
and a culture of
non-violence and peace.