

DREF operation update



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Timor-Leste: Flooding and landslides

DREF operation n° MD RTP002
GLIDE n° [FL-2007-000107-TMP](#)
Update n° 02
27 December 2007

The International Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) is a source of un-earmarked money created by the Federation in 1985 to ensure that immediate financial support is available for Red Cross and Red Crescent response to emergencies. The DREF is a vital part of the International Federation's disaster response system and increases the ability of national societies to respond to disasters.

Period covered by this update:
27 July 2007 to 26 December 2007

Summary: CHF 145,212 (USD 125,772) was allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 25 July 2007 to support the national society in delivering assistance to 947 beneficiaries.

In July 2007, Timor-Leste experienced severe downpours leading to flooding and landslides. Overall, 243 families (a total of 947 beneficiaries: 463 men and 484 women) in six districts were badly affected. Through the DREF support of CHF 145,212, the operation was planned for five months; July through November 2007. Because of various logistical challenges, including the purchase of appropriate timber, the update requests an extension of the operation until March 2008.

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Reaching out: the Red Cross consults people closely on what they need.

The situation

This operation has been aligned with the International Federation's Global Agenda Goal 1: Reduced deaths, injuries and impact from disasters. The main challenge has been the short supply of legal timber; therefore, progress has been slow. So far, 50 shelters out of 201 have been completed.

Overall, Timor-Leste faced many problems during 2007. About 100,000 internally displaced persons (IDP) have been in camps for more than a year. The security situation is still

unpredictable. The country faced drought from February to March 2007 resulting in food scarcity in many parts. Then, a new bout of civil unrest erupted in the three eastern districts that led to the displacement of about 10,000 people as well as the destruction or burning down of houses and various infrastructure. It is forecast that La Niña will bring heavy rain from December through to June. Preparedness for the wet season is well underway.

This DREF bulletin reports on a period of heavy rain in July 2007 that resulted in floods and land slides in many parts of the country. The impact was particularly severe in the districts of Suai, Same, Manatutu, Viqueque and Ermera. A total of 243 households were affected with at least one death recorded as well as severe losses of livelihood, shelter and crops such as rice, corn and green crops. In Suai, about 100 deep wells were contaminated by flood water while many houses in Jumalai were destroyed by the land slides. Health problems such as diarrhoea, malaria and dengue have also been reported in Suai.

Coordination and partnerships

Soon after the disaster, the National Disaster Management Office coordinated the major stakeholders including government departments, UN agencies, INGOs, CVTL (Timor-Leste Red Cross) and the Federation in relief operations. In Suai, Oxfam with involvement of CVTL volunteers cleaned up wells to ensure safe water. In the meantime, inter-agency needs assessment teams led by UNOCHA were sent to the affected areas. The government provided initial assistance to the affected families in Manatutu and Suai, distributing food parcels and non-food items while logistical support was provided by the United Nations office.

The inter-agency coordination body discussed the immediate and longer-term needs based on needs assessment reports. Different agencies including UN agreed to provide immediate relief assistance in different sectors; however, shelter was one area that was relatively unattended. The CVTL national headquarters and the Federation have, therefore, decided to address this gap.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Progress towards objectives

Objective:

Support 201 disaster-affected families in six districts to rebuild their shelters by the end of November 2007.

Achievements:

The operation followed a community-led sheltering process. The operation team first discussed the sheltering process in town hall meetings in affected areas. The communities agreed that CVTL would provide only core shelter materials, and residents themselves would continue to develop these shelters as permanent houses, using local resources.

Identifying suitable construction sites was the priority for relocation of the affected families in two districts. The community recommended some new areas for relocation. For those areas, CVTL and the Federation worked with the authorities' land and property department on issues of land entitlement. Finally, the land and property department agreed to provide land titles to the local community in the Suai and Ermera districts. Thus, the land issues were sorted out at the outset of the operation.

The community then formed groups of eight to ten people for shelter construction. CVTL recruited a team of three technicians trained in shelter construction to facilitate the operation while the district branches identified volunteers to be involved in this process. The Federation provided support from the beginning of the process

CVTL issued a tender notice for the supply of construction materials. Altogether 15 bidders submitted quotes. Unfortunately, some of them were unqualified. Finally, in consultation with the

regional logistics unit in Kuala Lumpur, qualified suppliers were selected following competitive price quotes. Some of these suppliers later submitted letters of regret; the others could not produce necessary documents. For the selection of genuine suppliers, it took almost a month.

Only 50 families out of 201 have received a complete set of materials to date and have completed construction. Follow-up has taken place to complete construction before the wet season begins. Each family received the following materials:

- Timber: 10 cm x 10 cm x 400 cm: 15 pieces
- Timber: 5 cm x 7 cm x 400 cm: 35 pieces
- Iron roofing sheets: 30 pieces
- Nails (10 cm for roofing): 3 kg
- Nails (for fixing timber): 2 kg
- Hammer, hand saw: 1 set per group

In addition to the above materials, the CVTL has been providing technical support to the community groups.

The shelter designs are in line with local practices. Two designs - "two inclined iron roofs" and "a flat iron roof" - are preferred by the community. The local village head and the sub-village heads are actively involved in the shelter construction process.

CVTL and the Federation encouraged the government to repair river embankments and excavate river beds to change the river course away from the village at the Lacló community in Manatutu. The community was affected by floods last year and was selected for this operation. After CVTL and the Federation discussed the issue with the government, the government allocated USD 30,000 (CHF 34,650) for this purpose. As such, the reconstruction of shelters in that area has been deemed unnecessary.

Overall, the operation partially achieved its target. About 25 per cent (50 out of 201) families have begun completing their shelters.

Constraints or challenges:

The major challenges are:

- **Timber procurement**

Procurement of legal timber for this operation has been extremely difficult. After weeks of follow-up with the government, the timber supplier obtained government approval for the supply of about 30 cubic metres. CVTL was informed that the government will authorize the rest of the timber after the company submits its distribution list in the community. During this time, while the supplier was preparing for delivery, he was harassed by a local gang; and as such, suspended the supply for some time. Finally, the company supplied about 30 cubic metres of timber against a need of 220 cubic metres.

Recently, the government issued a public notice making logging in Timor-Leste illegal. Therefore, authorization for additional timber has been impossible. The department of forestry advises all concerned to buy timber from other countries. As the price of timber soars, none of the companies is interested in taking orders. Furthermore, it is difficult to get necessary documents from the suppliers. Thus, timber has been the major constraint for the completion of the operation. As a contingency measure, the Federation logistics unit in Kuala Lumpur has been requested to explore the purchase of legal timber for the operation. Should timber be available from Malaysia or Indonesia, it may arrive in Timor-Leste by mid-February, allowing construction to begin then. With the wet season about to begin, timber is a highly pressing need.

One of the lessons from this operation is that in the future it is better not to rely on local market especially for timber in Timor-Leste.

- **Security situation**

The ongoing political and security instability have impacted the operation. Local suppliers do not stock pile construction materials because of the security threats; therefore, it takes at least a month for supplies to arrive in the local market from other countries.

- **Wet season**

As a result of La Niña, the wet season is about to begin, bringing rain for the next six months. This will adversely affect the delivery of materials and the construction of shelters.

Implementation & coordination:

The country delegation supported CVTL in planning the operation, procurement of construction materials, implementation, monitoring and follow up. The operation has been implemented with close cooperation between CVTL and the Federation with support from the regional delegation in Bangkok and the secretariat in Geneva.

Contributing to longer-term impact:

This operation has contributed to the International Federation's Global Agenda Goal 1: Reduced deaths, injuries and impact from disasters. The Federation and CVTL worked jointly with other agencies to identify the shelter gap. Involvement in this operation has helped raise CVTL's profile especially with the National Disaster Management Directorate. CVTL and the Federation have been consulted as important partners in the preparedness of any impending disasters or for emergency response. The timely response to the disaster-affected population has contributed to reducing the risk of their potential exposure to being in debt for reconstruction of shelters.

Looking ahead:

The community is anxiously waiting to receive shelter materials before the wet season starts. However, because of the aforementioned reasons, it was not possible to deliver shelter materials. Therefore, it is likely that the community will continue to face problems if materials remain undelivered. As such, the operation seeks an extension until March 2008.

How we work

All International Federation 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 is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response](#) (Sphere) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The International Federation's activities are aligned with its Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".

Global Agenda Goals:

- Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.
- Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.
- Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.
- Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.

Contact information

For further information:

- *Cruz Vermelha de Timor-Leste (Timor-Leste Red Cross): Isabel Amaral Guterres*

(secretary general); email: sec-gen@cvtl.tp; phone: +670.724.8963; fax: +670.332.1688

- Federation delegation in Timor-Leste: Warwick Inder (head of delegation); email: warwick.inder@ifrc.org; Phone: +670.723.1434; Fax: +670.332.2010
- Federation Southeast Asia regional office in Bangkok: Alan Bradbury (acting head of regional office); email: alan.bradbury@ifrc.org; phone: +66.2.661.8201; fax: +66.2.661.9322
- Asia Pacific Zone in Kuala Lumpur: Amy Gaver, email: amy.gaver@ifrc.org, phone: + 60 3 2161 0892, fax: +60 3 2161 1210, mobile +60 12 220 1174.

[Budget below. <click here to return to the title page>](#)

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MDRTP002 - East Timor - Floods & Landslides

Interim Financial Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2007/1-2007/11
Budget Timeframe	2007/1-2007/12
Appeal	MDRTP002
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Consolidated Response to Appeal

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
A. Budget		145,212				145,212
B. Opening Balance		0				0
Income						
<u>Other Income</u>						
DREF Allocations		145,212				145,212
C6. Other Income		145,212				145,212
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C6)		145,212				145,212
D. Total Funding = B + C		145,212				145,212

II. Balance of Funds

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
B. Opening Balance		0				0
C. Income		145,212				145,212
E. Expenditure		-73,488				-73,488
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)		71,724				71,724

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III. Budget Analysis / Breakdown of Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation		
A							B	A - B
BUDGET (C)		145,212					145,212	
Supplies								
Construction Materials	107,691						107,691	
Total Supplies	107,691						107,691	
Transport & Storage								
Transport & Vehicle Costs	5,516		479			479	5,037	
Total Transport & Storage	5,516		479			479	5,037	
Personnel								
National Society Staff	11,839		3,836			3,836	8,003	
Total Personnel	11,839		3,836			3,836	8,003	
General Expenditure								
Travel			6			6	-6	
Information & Public Relation			104			104	-104	
Office Costs	10,727		227			227	10,500	
Communications			215			215	-215	
Financial Charges			5			5	-5	
Other General Expenses			224			224	-224	
Total General Expenditure	10,727		781			781	9,946	
Programme Support								
Program Support	9,439		4,777			4,777	4,662	
Total Programme Support	9,439		4,777			4,777	4,662	
Operational Provisions								
Operational Provisions			63,615			63,615	-63,615	
Total Operational Provisions			63,615			63,615	-63,615	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	145,212		73,488			73,488	71,724	
VARIANCE (C - D)			71,724			71,724		