

ANNUAL 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

EAST TIMOR

May 2002

Appeal No. 01.42/2001

Appeal Target: CHF 485,000 revised to CHF 400,529 (USD 247,000/EUR274,000)

Operational Developments

After a UN supervised referendum was held on the future status of East Timor in September 1999, widespread violence and looting took place across the country. Some three quarters of the population of 850,000 were displaced and 70 per cent of the already limited infrastructure was destroyed. After security had been restored, the UN Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET) assumed an interim mandate to oversee the country's transition to full independence. Through the Timorese National Council, the UN and a number of international aid agencies supported intensive reconstruction and rehabilitation in the country, paving the way for a democratically elected government.

Soon after Indonesia annexed East Timor in 1975, after the end of Portuguese colonial rule, a chapter of the Indonesian Red Cross (PMI) took over the activities and the responsibilities of the East Timor branch of the Portuguese Red Cross (Cruz Vermelha Lorosa'e or CVTL). After the 1999 referendum and the ensuing violence only a few PMI volunteers and staff were left on the island. Most of these had been working with the ICRC, who had maintained a strong presence in the region from 1979 onwards.

During the upheaval in September 1999 the ICRC was forced to leave the country, however its delegates returned to East Timor after a period of eight days. They ran an extensive relief operation including support for the main hospital in the capital, Dili, until June 2001, dissemination/tracing activities, water/sanitation projects, protection activities and the distribution of Red Cross messages.

In 2001, some national institutions were re-established: a police force, a defence force, schools and hospitals were reconstructed and opened, and buildings and homes were repaired. On 31 August 2001 the population elected a Constitutional Assembly composed of 88 delegates from different political parties who were given the mandate of writing a new constitution.

In 2001, the literacy rate in East Timor was estimated at 50 per cent, infant mortality was among the highest in the world, there were only 23 East Timorese doctors (the only specialists), and the country had a severe shortage of trained teachers and administrators of any kind. More than 90 per cent of the workforce was unemployed.

Many international agencies closed down their operations in the country at the end of 2001. In December 2001 a donor conference was held in Oslo, at which governments, the World Bank and the IMF expressed their commitment to help East Timor in its transition to independence.

An estimated 240,000 primary and secondary students headed back to school at the start of the new academic year in September 2001. Until December approximately 50,000 Timorese lived as refugees in the western part of the island controlled by Indonesia, and the possibility of permanent resettlement there was under consideration.

Climatic factors such as the El Nino phenomenon also affected the country, bringing dry weather, instead of seasonal rainfall. Given the magnitude of the humanitarian needs in East Timor, which ranks among the poorest and least developed countries in the world, there was a clear need for strong indigenous organizations to help build a civil society. Few NGOs were present in the country, and the Red Cross therefore had an important role to play in any future development.

During the transitional period in 2000 to 2001, the Federation supported the national society in formation by providing two short-term delegates for three month periods, gave technical support in communications and development, first-aid training, and from October onwards placed a permanent delegate for two years, to help in the foundation and overall development of the East Timorese national society - the Cruz Vermelha Lorosa'e, comprised of 15 members of the Preparatory Committee and some first-aid volunteers.

Although progress was constrained by the lack of qualified staff, steps were taken to formulate a basic development plan, to provide the CVTL with exposure to the work of national societies in the region, and in specific areas such as training for trainers in first aid. The regional delegation provided guidance on basic governance and organizational structure, while considerable coverage was given to the society through the Asia and Pacific FOCUS newsletter.

The Federation's representative harnessed resources from the region; not only financial and technical resources but also the skills and experience of the regional delegation (and through it the Geneva Secretariat) and other country delegations, i.e. Indonesia and Cambodia and national societies. The representative also worked in conjunction with the Australian Red Cross on a bilateral water project. The ICRC, from 1999 onwards provided excellent support to the volunteers and members of the Preparatory Committee and to other CVTL activities.

Objectives, Achievements and Constraints

In February 2001 the first Federation delegate arrived in Dili, for an initial period of three months to assist the Preparatory Committee in setting up the national society; he assisted the CVTL in drawing up a plan of action which was presented at the Partnership Meeting in March 2001 in Phnom Penh, and received unanimous support from the participants. Following the Partnership Meeting, the regional organizational development (OD) delegate, the information delegate and a programme manager carried out missions to East Timor to assist the Preparatory Committee and the delegate already there.

A second Federation delegate from Malaysia arrived in East Timor in May for a three-month period to help the national society in formation with first-aid training and to provide support for the Preparatory Committee.

In October a permanent Federation representative was given a two-year mandate to help establish a well functioning national society in the country and to foster relations with the Transitional Government, international agencies and the European Community. The Federation extended its Memorandum of Understanding with the ICRC till July 2002; the Memorandum outlined the respective responsibilities of both institutions and the lead role of the Federation in the development of the CVTL.

Disaster Response

Objective 1 To assist the new national society to define its role in the National Disaster plan.

Achievements

CVTL was included in the National plan, invited to participate in all regular and extraordinary meetings and considered an important partner to the government in the event of natural and health emergencies. The National Disaster plan highlighted the vulnerability of the population to the following hazards in East Timor, after intensive research conducted in 2000 and 2001:

- Floods throughout the country, caused by heavy rains;
- Landslides during the rainy season, extensive soil erosion and deforestation;
- Rural and urban fires;
- Drought, particularly on Atauro island;
- Major road accidents;
- Epidemic diseases (linked to poor sanitation and hygiene);
- Environmental degradation, pollution and related problems;
- Possibility of conflict on the border and social problems of refugees living in the west/Kupang area;
- Cyclones in the south and western part of the country;
- Earthquakes and tsunamis (rare).

By the end of 2001 CVTL had an emergency supplies warehouse in Dili, a logistics system and personnel who had attended a disaster management training exercise in Indonesia in October. At the time of writing, CVTL had also organized a group of 15 volunteers to work in disaster response.

Constraints

All the members of the disaster response and logistics teams worked full time for the ICRC: they could therefore devote only little spare time for CVTL activities. All material belonged to the ICRC; at the time of writing, the Federation was in the process of helping CVTL to purchase the necessary equipment.

Objective 2 To provide training to national society staff and volunteers in disaster management.

Achievements

Logistics training in Surabaya in Indonesia was organized for three CVTL members in October 2001; the logistics team in Dili also received training material in the Bahasa language. At the time of writing, the regional team was in the process of translating all logistics documents into Tetun.

Constraints

With only a small number of CVTL members and volunteers, it was impossible to implement all the activities planned for 2000.

Humanitarian Values

The Committee members were eager to raise the profile of the new national society. The Red Cross was known in the country through past PMI (Indonesian Red Cross) and ICRC activities; CVTL, however, was not as easily recognizable.

In November CVTL members opted to participate in the regional public awareness campaign on HIV/AIDS issues, in conjunction with a special commission set up by the Ministry of Health; they also produced and distributed an information brochure in Tetun, Bahasa and Portuguese, and distributed red ribbons and balloons on 1 December, World AIDS Day.

Objective 1 To establish a more visible profile for the CVTL.

Achievements

- Staff held talks with the authorities and UN agencies to keep them informed about future regional programmes and to raise the profile of the national society; meetings took place with, among others, the UN Provisional Administrator, the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Health and Education, WHO, UNICEF, UNDP, Oxfam, ACF, and various embassies.
- Relations were fostered with the media.
- Volunteers, communities, and the business sector received regular information.
- Publications from Geneva and Bangkok (calendars, FOCUS, the Appeal, and other brochures) were distributed.

By year's end, CVTL had succeeded in raising its profile and was invited to participate in more public events.

Constraints

During the reporting period humanitarian activities carried out were limited to the areas of first-aid training, cleanup of coastal regions, and water project systems in rural areas; this was insufficient to boost the image of the CVTL in the public eye.

The Federation's team therefore worked hard to increase numbers of volunteers and to diversify its activities in the country, particularly in the fields of health education, first-aid services, HIV/AIDS education, disaster preparedness, and protection of the environment.

Another limitation was the lack of a CVTL building; during the reporting period only makeshift facilities were available.

Objective 2 To run a regional campaign to combat HIV/AIDS.

Although in 2001 prevalence rates on HIV/AIDS were very low, there were still many factors which could contribute to a future rise in the disease. These included the uncertain situation of refugees at the border, the high mobility of the population, a large influx of foreigners, lack of information on sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) and HIV/AIDS and opposition on the part of religious leaders to the use of preventive methods.

In this context, the government manifested a keen interest in HIV/AIDS prevention and invited the Red Cross to participate in an operational committee in conjunction with WHO and Unicef.

Achievements

A massive campaign was held on 1 December to mark World AIDS Day. Thirty-five volunteers participated, 1,000 balloons and cards were distributed, 1200 red ribbons were made by the volunteers, brochures with information in Tetun, Bahassa and Portuguese were distributed, and training sessions conducted for all the volunteers. Coordination with the Ministry of Health and UN agencies was excellent. In November CVTL participated in extremely fruitful preparatory meetings organized by the Ministry of Health's department responsible for HIV/AIDS activities. All these efforts served to heighten public awareness of the CVTL.

Constraints

A lack of reliable information about HIV/AIDS, few statistics on the disease, religious traditions and misconceptions were all constraints that hampered the full implementation of this objective. This activity was not included in the original Appeal.

Health and Care

In East Timor communicable diseases such as malaria, dengue fever, tuberculosis, and leprosy accounted for the majority of deaths, of which approximately 60 per cent occurred in children. The infant mortality rate was estimated at 125 per 1,000 live births. The most common childhood illnesses were acute respiratory infections and diarrhoeal diseases, followed by malaria and dengue fever. Vaccination coverage was less than 30 per cent (DTP 3 per cent coverage).

The water supply and sanitation system was largely destroyed during election violence. Rural access to safe water was a cause of serious concern throughout the year, and an efficient sewerage system did not exist in Dili or in other parts of the country. Knowledge of basic sanitation practices was poor and there was a lack of awareness of the link between health and hygiene.

Water sanitation rehabilitation and construction was largely implemented by international NGOs.

Objective 1 To conduct an assessment to identify the needs and likely role for the national society in community health and first aid.

Achievements

A clearly defined need existed for first-aid training to target groups and the wider public. Indonesian Red Cross (PMI) provided training for first-aid instructors for two East Timorese in Indonesia; two sets of PMI standard training material, 100 handbooks and other first-aid material were also purchased. Trainers held sessions in Dili for two groups in 2001.

Constraints

Both trainers were forced to curtail their activities for personal reasons; their assistants were trained and by year's end, had begun the translation of handbooks into Tetun. No classroom was available for training purposes.

Objective 2 To assist the CVTL and the Australian Red Cross in the handover of the water project from the ICRC, which from 1988 onwards, had developed this activity in rural areas, with more than 70 water systems.

Achievements

During the last quarter of 2001 the water teams were supported by the Federation's representative in achieving a smooth handover of the project.

Constraints

It was not easy to integrate 22 members of the water teams into the structure of the new national society or to provide clear financial and administrative support for the process. However the Preparatory Committee was able to find satisfactory solutions for all the problems encountered. The programme run by the ICRC for many years was designed to ensure that delegates had access to conflict areas and to provide water for communities living in rural districts; less attention was given to community involvement and to developing health education and hygiene concepts. The ICRC had also provided the tools and fittings to maintain the water-supply systems.

Organizational Development

The overall goal of the OD programme was to support the creation and growth of a new national Red Cross society in East Timor and to assist it in fulfilling its humanitarian mandate.

Objective 1 To establish, within four years, a well functioning national society in East Timor, with appropriate and recognized activities. The national society will be recognized by the ICRC and admitted to Federation membership by the Federation General Assembly.

Achievements

During 2001 the regional team focused on support for the Preparatory Committee members, training them in basic governance, providing guidance in the development of national society leadership, conducting an assessment of the vulnerabilities of the population in Dili, and initiating the process of establishing an administrative/financial system for CVTL. To this end, training sessions, exchange visits and workshops were organized.

At the end of the year the Preparatory Committee had given its approval in the following areas: the structure of the national society, the composition of governance, the minimum number of staff required to start activities, the construction of provisional premises in Bidau/Santa Ana, the recruitment process for volunteers, the priorities for 2002 and the list of materials and equipment needed. The Committee met on a twice-monthly basis.

Constraints

The most qualified people were already employed by UN agencies and the government and it was therefore difficult to hire staff with the necessary skills for CVTL in areas such as finance and health.

Objective 2 To establish a headquarters office for the CVTL.

Achievements

The rehabilitation of what was known locally as the "Portuguese Red Cross building", was originally envisaged, but in November 2001 the team received an official confirmation that the UNTAET had declared the building to be public property. The Preparatory Committee therefore decided to begin construction work on other premises.

Constraints

A lack of a clearly defined judicial framework in the country hampered the initiatives of the Preparatory Committee. The regional team nonetheless continued the process of setting up an organizational chart and management systems for the CVTL.

Regional Cooperation

Excellent cooperation existed throughout the year with the regional delegation in Bangkok, with the financial unit in Kuala Lumpur and in particular with the country delegation in Indonesia; the team also worked in close conjunction with departments in the Geneva Secretariat.

Coordination and Management

During the reporting period the delegation in Dili had only one delegate and no local staff. Systems already established by the ICRC were kept, and when specialist services were needed, resources from the region or from other organizations (local or international) were used.

The delegation

The Federation assigned a permanent representative to Dili in October. His brief was to help the CVTL fulfil the requirements necessary to become a full member of the Movement; the representative worked alone in East Timor and with support from the Indonesian delegation, the regional delegation in Bangkok and the Secretariat in Geneva and maintained close contact with national societies and PNSs in the region.

Monitoring and Evaluation

In 2001 the regional delegation monitored programmes implemented in East Timor through visits by OD and communications delegates, among others; the two temporary delegates, and from October onwards, the permanent representative in East Timor also carried out monitoring activities.

Several members of the Preparatory Committee participated in regional meetings and seminars (Federation Partnership Meeting, a regional communications workshop, the Secretary Generals Meeting, a logistics workshop), where they presented reports on the implementation process.

Lessons Learned

East Timor provided an informative case study since the national society there had not previously existed. The society began only with a group of volunteers after a complete assessment was made in July 2000, which outlined clear guidelines on the steps to be implemented. The country was almost completely destroyed after 24 years of conflict, and the UN made enormous efforts to rehabilitate basic infrastructure. The Red Cross was viewed with respect and affection, primarily because of the work done by the ICRC over many years; much scope exists for Red Cross contributions in the rebuilding of civil society and the development of concepts such as volunteerism.

Temporary delegates were not an effective solution for East Timor, since after their departures, implementation processes came to a halt; the delegation also had to learn to work in a small country with four languages and seven dialects.

Conclusions

Although a great deal was accomplished over the year, much work still needed to be done before the CVTL could fulfill the conditions necessary for admittance in the Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement.

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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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INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT SOCIETIES

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Appeal No & title: 01.42/2001 East Timor
Period: year 2001
Project(s): TP001, ID004,
Currency: CHF

I - CONSOLIDATED INCOME 2001, CASH, KIND, SERVICES

FUNDING	CASH		KIND & SERVICES		TOTAL INCOME
	Contributions	Reallocations	Goods/Services	Personnel	
Appeal budget	400,529				
less					
Cash brought forward	186,734				
TOTAL ASSISTANCE SOUGHT	213,795				
<u>Contributions from Donors</u>					
British Red Cross (DNGB)	17,074				17,074
New Zealand Red Cross (DNNZ)	35,590				35,590
New Zealand Red Cross (DNNZ)	1,051				1,051
Portuguese Red Cross (DNPT)	96,195				96,195
Singapore Red Cross (DNSG)	12,269				12,269
Swedish Govt.via Swedish Red Cross	40,750				40,750
Swedish Govt.via Swedish Red Cross	19,425				19,425
Swedish Red Cross (DNSE)	21,038				21,038
TOTAL	243,392				243,392

II - Balance of funds

Opening balance	186,734
CASH INCOME Rcv'd	243,392
CASH EXPENDITURE	-258,902

CASH BALANCE	171,223

Appeal No & title: 01.42/2001 East Timor

Period: year 2001

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Currency: CHF

III - Budget analysis / Breakdown of expenditures

Description	Appeal Budget	CASH Expenditures	KIND & SERVICES		TOTAL Expenditures	Variance
			Goods/services	Personnel		
<u>SUPPLIES</u>						
Shelter & Construction		3,839			3,839	-3,839
Clothing & Textiles						
Food/Seeds						
Water	5,620					5,620
Medical & First Aid		6,725			6,725	-6,725
Teaching materials	40,000					40,000
Utensils & Tools						
Other relief supplies	4,050					4,050
Sub-Total	49,670	10,564			10,564	39,106
<u>CAPITAL EXPENSES</u>						
Land & Buildings						
Vehicles	31,000	31,000			31,000	
Computers & Telecom equip.		7,969			7,969	-7,969
Medical equipment						
Other capital expenditures	98,000	1,988			1,988	96,012
Sub-Total	129,000	40,957			40,957	88,044
<u>TRANSPORT & STORAGE</u>						
	5,360	12,398			12,398	-7,038
Sub-Total	5,360	12,398			12,398	-7,038
<u>PERSONNEL</u>						
Personnel (delegates)	108,000	70,063			70,063	37,937
Personnel (local staff)	16,220	7,880			7,880	8,340
Training						
Sub-Total	124,220	77,943			77,943	46,277
<u>GENERAL & ADMINISTRATION</u>						
Assessment/Monitoring/experts		3,676			3,676	-3,676
Travel & related expenses	20,200	28,731			28,731	-8,531
Information expenses	10,920	1,092			1,092	9,828
Administrative expenses	17,100	14,962			14,962	2,138
External workshops & Seminars						
Sub-Total	48,220	48,461			48,461	-241
<u>PROGRAMME SUPPORT</u>						
Programme management	27,008	17,947			17,947	9,061
Technical services	8,085	5,373			5,373	2,712
Professional services	8,966	5,961			5,961	3,005
Sub-Total	44,059	29,280			29,280	14,779
Operational provisions		39,300			39,300	-39,300
Transfers to National Societies						
TOTAL BUDGET	400,529	258,902			258,902	141,627

Consumption rate: Expenditures versus income 106%
Expenditures versus budget 65%