



TIMOR-LESTE

IFRC Country Cluster Support Team Jakarta

2019 COUNTRY PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Timor-Leste is one of the world's youngest countries. Since its independence in 2002, the country has been making remarkable progress in peace and state-building, economic growth, and social development. However, despite these notable achievements, Timor-Leste has been facing numerous challenges. Weak governance, low literacy, poor infrastructure, and lack of health and education facilities among many other issues, hinders the country's basic service delivery and socio-economic development. Rapid deforestation, frequent flooding, recurrent landslides, and climate-change-induced drought have contributed to the further expansion of widespread poverty and vulnerabilities to disasters.

Timor-Leste has the highest maternal and under-5 mortality rates in Southeast Asia. Poverty, poor health and chronic malnutrition are key drivers of stunted growth, affecting not only a very high proportion of children, more prone in rural areas than in urban areas due to the difference in the types of food consumed. Development reports' recommendations have indicated that this issue should receive the highest priority in government Health spending.

In response to these multi-layered challenges, the Cruz Vermelha de Timor-Leste (CVTL), an auxiliary organisation to the Government of Timor-Leste, has been proactively tackling the humanitarian needs of vulnerable people and implementing community development initiatives. The CVTL's Strategic Plan 2015-2019 aims to save lives and improve the quality of life of the most vulnerable people in the country, particularly through an integrated programme approach that combines together all four sectors of health promotion, disaster risk reduction, community resilience, youth education, and organizational development.

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) will continue to focus its support on three key areas, including disaster risk reduction, health, and water and sanitation.

The IFRC will scale up its support to CVTL through the Integrated Community-Based Risk Reduction (ICBRR) programme, which aims to build safer, healthier, and more resilient communities by constructing water supply and sanitation facilities, promoting healthy practices through the Community-Based Health and First Aid (CBHFA), reducing community disaster risks, supporting livelihoods, and encouraging youth engagement and voluntary services in community development activities. In parallel, in order to improve the CVTL's service quality and foster the National Society's sustainable development, the IFRC will reinforce its technical advice and knowledge sharing with CVTL through numerous activities in strengthening the organisation capacity, diversifying strategic partnerships, and streamlining the IFRC's support in times of disasters and crises.

NEEDS ASSESSMENT



Timor Leste's Youth Needs

Timor Leste ranks 132nd out of 189 countries in the 2017 Human Development Index – moving a rank up from the previous year's position. While the overall trend in Timor-Leste is towards human development outcome improvements, unemployed youth continue to face multiple wellbeing vulnerabilities, unless more targeted and quality investments are made in health, education and the economy. 74 per cent of the population aged under 35, making it the second youngest nation in the Asia-Pacific region and 15th youngest globally. However, the Timor-Leste National Human Development Report 2018 found that inadequate investments in education and training are resulting in a large pool of unemployed youth who feel unprepared for and lack the skills required to access decent employment. This is intensified for adolescent girls and young women who are further disadvantaged in fully participating in education and the economy due to gender roles.

STATISTICS

43% of the households do not have access to improved sanitation facilities (2017, UNICEF).

40% of the population live below the national poverty line. (2014, WB).

38% of children under five are suffering from severe malnutrition (2018, CIA).

20% of the population exercise open defecation (2015, Govt of Timor Leste).

AREA OF FOCUS

DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

CHF 410,000 REQUIRED

Through the ICBRR programme, the CVTL aims to build safer, healthier, and more resilient communities. The CVTL will support target communities to take active steps to strengthen their disaster preparedness for effective response to disasters. This initiative is crucial following the recommendations of the Manila Call to Action (2018) to "recognise the importance of local community resilience". In the face of climate change and its negative effects, the CVTL will implement climate change mitigation and adaptation plans, including environmental sustainability awareness-raising campaigns. The ICBRR programme will be carried out in 25 of the most vulnerable communities in 13 municipalities across the country, targeting 25,000 people in total.

HEALTH

CHF 180,000 REQUIRED

CVTL will scale up mother and child health programme since malnutrition rates, infant mortality rates and maternal mortality rates remain high across Timor Leste. In doing so, CVTL will carry out health education activities and health campaigns to increase awareness among community members. Additionally, CVTL will support the government to tackle health threats through outbreak preparedness programmes which are in line with the commitment of the Manila Call To Action (2018) to "prepare, prevent, and respond to outbreaks, epidemics and pandemics at a local level".

The program is aimed to reach:

- 39,000 people with services to reduce relevant health risk factors.
- 3,100 people to be trained in first aid.
- 5,100 people with clinical health care services during emergencies.

WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE

CHF 85,000 REQUIRED

CVTL has identified the provision of clean water and safe sanitation as one of its key priorities, particularly for remote areas. In many parts of Timor-Leste, water catchments are degraded by poor land-use practices. In addressing these issues and following the Manila Call To Action (2018) recommendation on enhancing local partnership, CVTL will strengthen their partnership with the government and key stakeholders to increase communities' access to sustainable clean water and safe sanitation. The program's goals are:

- Construction of water and sanitation facilities for communities.
- Raise awareness about improved treatment and safe use of waste-water and safe defecation.
- Hygiene promotion targeting communities and schools.

STRATEGY FOR IMPLEMENTATION

STRENGTHEN NATIONAL SOCIETY CAPACITIES

CHF 200,000 REQUIRED

CVTL aims to build more self-sustained branches with improved volunteer recruitment to support its services and operations. CVTL, with the support of IFRC, will enhance the financial and organisational sustainability focusing on the finance, human resource management, diversified source of income and logistics development. IFRC continues to provide technical support in implementing the upgraded financial software and system to ensure the smooth performance of basic organisational functions that are in line with the commitment of the Manila Call To Action (2018) to increase investment in innovative approaches and technologies.

ENSURE EFFECTIVE INTERNATIONAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT

CHF 45,000 REQUIRED

CVTL and IFRC will prepare a Movement Readiness Plan to enable rapid and effective response in the event of major disasters in the country, including severe and recurrent droughts, flooding and landslides, as well as other risks such as tropical cyclones, earthquakes, and tsunamis. IFRC will support CVTL to develop and enhance their capacity on emergency response management through training, mentorship, and peer to peer support. IFRC will also support CVTL to scale up their capacity on community engagement to ensure accountability to affected communities in disasters – in line with the recommendation of the Manila Call to Action (2018) on local humanitarian action.

INFLUENCE OTHERS AS LEADING STRATEGIC PARTNERS

CHF 10,000 REQUIRED

As an auxiliary organization to the Government of Timor-Leste (GoTL), CVTL plays a crucial role in disaster management, humanitarian assistance, and development cooperation. The IFRC will continue to provide technical advice to the CVTL and the GoTL for the institutionalisation of the Disaster Risk Management Law and Policy. The IFRC will strengthen its cooperative relationship with UN agencies and NGOs, particularly through Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) Coordination Meetings and HCT working groups. Partnerships with the private sector will be also enhanced in order to diversify the CVTL's donor base.

ENSURE A STRONG IFRC

IFRC reinforces its commitment to compliance of highest accountability standards, amenability to key management performance indicators, full adherence to IFRC's Fraud and Corruption Prevention and Control policy, strict concession to IFRC's Prevention and Response of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse policy, and highest commitment to ensuring a safe and inclusive working environment towards greater diversity and gender equality.

CONTACTS

For more information on the work of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in Country, please contact:

Head of CCST for Indonesia & Timor-Leste: Mr. Jan Gelfand

- Email: Jan.Gelfand@ifrc.org | Phone: + 62 21 7279 3440 | Fax: +62 21 7279 3446

Partnership Delegate, for Timor-Leste: Mr. Jae Ryul KIM

- Email: JaeRyul.Kim@ifrc.org | Phone: + 670 7723 1434

Delegation Address: Rua 20 de Maio No. 79, Posto Administrativo, Nain Feto, Suco Gricenfor,