

**MAATP001**

Appeal number

**450,000**

Swiss Francs

Total funding requirement

**10,000**

People to be reached

**4,663**

Volunteers country-wide

**TIMOR LESTE****IFRC Country Cluster Support Team Jakarta**

## COUNTRY PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Timor-Leste (officially the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste) is one of the world's youngest countries. Since full independence in 2002 – after centuries-long occupation and devastating conflicts – Timor-Leste has made remarkable progress in peace- and state-building. Several rounds of peaceful presidential and parliamentary elections have taken place; the economy continues to grow, decreasing the proportion of Timorese living in extreme poverty; and maternal mortality has decreased significantly.

However, Timor-Leste still faces numerous challenges and risks. Most of the communities in Timor-Leste are exposed to multi-layered and interconnected risks. Approximately 70 per cent of Timor-Leste's population rely on subsistence agriculture for their livelihoods. Health and education facilities are largely insufficient and their quality of service is low. Food insecurity is widespread around the country, most prominently affecting the health of children.

In addition, Timor-Leste is frequently exposed to severe and recurrent drought, flooding, landslides, tropical cyclones, earthquakes and tsunamis. Rapid deforestation and environmental degradation exacerbate vulnerability to disasters. Frequent landslides impact the national transport system, and recurrent drought heightens the country's food insecurity. These conditions are made worse by the absence of institutional capacity – a lack of coping mechanisms and adaptive strategies against these hazards has ranked the country as the 7th most disaster-prone country in the world.

The Red Cross of Timor-Leste (Cruz Vermelha de Timor-Leste, CVTL) has one national headquarters, 13 branch offices, 183 staff members and 4,663 volunteers. Its work is supported by the IFRC, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), and partner National Societies in the country. The Integrated Community-Based Risk Reduction (ICBRR) project, supported by a consortium of the Australian Red Cross, British Red Cross, New Zealand Red Cross, Republic of Korea National Red Cross and IFRC, is one of CVTL's main programmes in the country. In 2020, this support will gradually reduce, putting CVTL at risk of being less sustainable in serving the vulnerable population.

## NEEDS ASSESSMENT



### Timor-Leste's development agenda ambition

Despite impressive progress since independence, the country's economic challenges are considerable. It remains one of the most oil-dependent countries in the world with oil and gas revenues accounting for 70 per cent of Gross Domestic Product and almost 90 per cent of total government revenue between 2010 and 2015. As a young country with limited human resources, it struggles to cope with the risks and challenges of natural disasters. Consequently, there is an urgent need to continue improvements in tackling the population's multiple vulnerabilities. Timor-Leste aspires to become an upper-middle income country by 2030 and has set a clear development agenda through its Strategic Development Plan to 2030.

## STATISTICS

**42.9%**

of the country's population deprived of proper sanitation facilities.

**50%**

of children are still suffering from chronic malnutrition.

**36%**

of the population is still food insecure.

**7<sup>th</sup>**

place among countries with relatively high mortality risks from multiple hazards

## AREAS OF FOCUS

### DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

**REQUIRED RESOURCES: CHF 320,000**

Using an integrated model of support that incorporates a multi-sectoral approach while allowing each community to tailor its activities based on its needs, the ICBRR programme aims to strengthen the capacity and resilience of the most vulnerable communities and households in Timor-Leste to better cope with the complex and interconnected set of risks they face:

- Five communities will be supported by CVTL.
- Assisted communities will have improved their capacities in Disaster Risk Reduction (contingency plans, early warning system, sustainable and environmentally friendly livelihoods).

### HEALTH

Improving community health practices:

- 95 per cent of assisted community members will be trained in first aid.
- All of the assisted communities will be trained in safe water collection and storage.
- All families that are provided with latrines will be trained to properly use and maintain latrines.
- Assisted communities will be trained to maintain hygiene to improve health – e.g how to prevent infections from malaria, how to manage waste, how to maintain personal hygiene etc.
- Assisted parents will be aware of how to provide healthy and nutritious food for their children.

Health is part of an integrated programme of the ICBRR project.

### WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE

Improving the five assisted communities' access to safe water supply and sanitation facilities through the provision of, and training in, maintaining adequate and sustainable access to safe water. Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) is part of an integrated programme of the ICBRR project.

### PROTECTION, GENDER AND INCLUSION (PGI)

CVTL, supported by IFRC, will promote the space for women to be decision-makers by encouraging female participation in activities at the community level. Efforts to systematically mainstream PGI into CVTL programming will be provided through remote and in-person mentoring by IFRC or linking with sister National Societies on PGI and Sexual and Gender Based Violence. PGI is part of an integrated programme of the ICBRR project.

## STRATEGIES FOR IMPLEMENTATION

### STRENGTHEN NATIONAL SOCIETY CAPACITIES

**REQUIRED RESOURCES: CHF 110,000**

CVTL aims to build more self-sustained branches by working towards financial sustainability and volunteer management to strengthen its services to the communities. CVTL, supported by IFRC, will enhance its organizational sustainability by focusing on the development of policies and training in finance in emergencies, logistics/procurement in emergencies, human resources in emergencies, sustainability in emergencies, response readiness and project management. CVTL will also work on increasing its capacity in Community Engagement and Accountability; Health; WASH; PGI; Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting; and Information Management (IM).

### ENSURE EFFECTIVE INTERNATIONAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT

IFRC will continue to support capacity building in Disaster Risk Management (DRM) through the Red Ready Programme (captured under SF11) as well as the further development of the CVTL Disaster Response system. The aim is to train 26 focal points in disaster monitoring as well as 28 CVTL staff and volunteers in using IM tools.

### INFLUENCE OTHERS AS LEADING STRATEGIC PARTNERS

**REQUIRED RESOURCES: CHF 20,000**

IFRC will advocate jointly with CVTL legislation of the DRM Law while participating in the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) Coordination Meeting and the HCT's working groups, such as the Community Based Disaster Risk Management and Early Warning Early Response Working Groups.

- Partnerships with the National Disaster Operation Centre, UN agencies and various International Non-Governmental Organizations will be strengthened.
- Partnership with Palang Merah Indonesia (Indonesian Red Cross Society) in the border protection programmes continued and developed.

### ENSURE A STRONG IFRC

Due to limited funding, after the completion of the ICBRR project, IFRC will close down its office in Dili, Timor-Leste. IFRC will, however, continue supporting the National Society from the CCST in Jakarta to become an effective and accountable organization in its own context, while contributing to IFRC's overall achievement of the highest standards.

## CONTACTS

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

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