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Emergency appeal Timor Leste: Drought

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Appeal n° MD RTP004

20,000 people to be assisted

Appeal launched 18 May 2016

Glide n° [DR-2016-000048-TMP](#)

CHF 215,752 advanced from DREF

Appeal ends 28 February 2017

CHF 798,618 current Appeal budget

This Emergency Appeal seeks **798,618 Swiss francs (CHF)** to enable the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) to support the **Cruz Vermelha de Timor-Leste (CVTL)** in delivering assistance and support to 20,000 people affected by drought conditions caused by El Niño for ten months. The operation focuses on the following sectors: food, nutrition and livelihoods; water, sanitation and hygiene; health; disaster risk reduction. The planned response reflects the current situation and information available at this time. It is likely to be adjusted based on further developments and detailed assessments, including secondary impacts because of a possible La Niña event. Details are available in the Emergency Plan of Action (EPoA) [<click here>](#)

The disaster and Red Cross Red Crescent response to date

Late 2015: Monitoring of the El Niño situation intensifies and CVTL drafts a contingency plan.

1 April: The authorities and humanitarian partners, including CVTL, present results of assessments they had conducted and there was a convergence of conclusions that the situation had become worse and as such all actors needed to act swiftly to alleviate the conditions of affected people.

15 April: CHF 215,752 allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Emergency Relief Fund (DREF) to support CVTL in addressing the immediate needs of up to 20,000 affected people in three affected districts.

11 May: IFRC deploys a Surge Operations Manager to provide in-country support to CVTL.

12 May: IFRC launches Emergency Appeal for CHF 798,618 to support CVTL to upscale the delivery of humanitarian assistance to 20,000 people.



A CVTL volunteer conducts an assessment in Lautem District, which is among the five worst affected by drought conditions caused by El Niño.
Photo credit: CVTL

The situation and its impact

Due to the current El Niño effect, Timor Leste's annual rainy/wet season (which normally lasts from December to March) has been low - and delayed in some areas - leading to drought conditions in many parts of the country. A rapid assessment conducted by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF) estimates that at least 120,000 people have been severely affected across five districts (Baucau, Covalima, Lautem, Oecusse and Viqueque), with 45.9 per cent of households across the country likely to experience food insecurity from April to June.

In addition to its effects on food security, the situation has resulted in water shortages and directly affected the livelihoods of thousands of people, especially rural and agriculture-dependent populations. Some communities that are experiencing sporadic rainfall are able to replant short-duration crops (as part of the second cropping period). However, the effects of El Niño are largely affecting communities that are more reliant on livestock and single-season farming. The loss of livestock for many translates to the loss of their "banked" wealth and will have an impact on the

ability of such households to send their children to school and to pay other household expenses. Since livestock is also used for tilling the land, loss in livestock will make it harder for farmers to prepare their land for replanting.

The Ministry of Interior (MOI), together with MAF, Ministry of Social Solidarity (MSS) and World Food Programme (WFP) undertook a Consolidated Livelihood Exercise for Analysing Resilience (CLEAR) during the first quarter of the year. Results of CLEAR show that some 170,000 people have been affected, of which 120,000 of them have been severely affected. The number of people in need of assistance may increase to 330,000 if the situation in the five worst affected districts deteriorates. The majority of the population in the five districts has been reported to have the capacity to cope with the current impact of El Niño effect. The affected districts have a combined population of 402,378 – more than one third of Timor Leste's total population (1,167,242).

Meantime, climate scientists have reported that there is an increase likelihood of a La Niña event forming in second half of 2016. A La Niña event would imply more-than-usual rainfall in Timor Leste, with the potential of flooding across the country. The La Niña event would bring secondary effects to people struggling to recover from the recent drought condition.

Red Cross Red Crescent response to date

Cruz Vermelha de Timor-Leste (CVTL) has started a draft contingency plan for the El Niño response. The National Society began monitoring the situation in 2015, including through local or regional meteorological forecasts and seasonal forecasts from the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre (RCCC). CVTL also utilized the guidance on El Niño and the use of seasonal forecast for early warning and early action, which had been jointly prepared by the IFRC Asia Pacific regional office (APRO) and RCCC, and disseminated via the IFRC Country Cluster Support Team (CCST) in Jakarta. CVTL coordinated its plans with the public authorities to ensure the auxiliary National Society's role was understood well by the different Government actors. CVTL also participated, and continues to participate, in meetings of the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT), which comprises of UN agencies, INGOs, ICRC and IFRC.

As the situation continued to evolve, CVTL notified 36 staff members and 90 volunteers to be ready for mobilization should the National Society be required to launch a response. CVTL branches, staff and volunteers have been active in the target communities delivering a range of services, including mother and child nutritional awareness, health awareness, and implementing water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) activities as part of longer-term integrated community based risk reduction (ICBRR) and nutrition programmes. Following the 1 April trigger point, CVTL made a decision to mount a response to address the urgent humanitarian needs of people feeling the effects of El Niño.

The IFRC's DREF was allocated on 15 April 2016 to enable CVTL to respond to the humanitarian needs of people affected by the drought. Prior to the DREF allocation, the IFRC APRO deployed its cash and livelihoods coordinator to support CVTL in undertaking the initial assessment and developing a response plan. An IFRC organizational development (OD) delegate, based in Dili for longer-term National Society development initiatives, is currently providing in-country support to this DREF operation. A surge operations manager is set to arrive in Dili to bolster IFRC's capacity to provide quality technical and operational management support to CVTL.

CVTL volunteers have been mobilized to undertake household-level assessments and consultations with target communities – including engaging with community leaders – to ensure that the most affected households are identified. The staff and volunteers are also creating awareness about the beneficiary selection criteria and the scope of assistance planned by CVTL to further promote transparency in programming and accountability to affected people.

CVTL has a longstanding working collaboration with the IFRC and the International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC) in implementing various programmes, including during conflict situation. CVTL works with a number of Partner National Societies within the context of a Consortium for the ICBRR and nutrition programmes. Regular Movement coordination meetings are hosted by CVTL and attended by IFRC, ICRC and PNSs with in-country presence.

The IFRC CCST in Jakarta and the IFRC APRO are providing further coordination support for information sharing and resources mobilization across the Movement partners. Some PNSs are keen to support this Emergency Appeal operation as the strategy is seen as complementary to the actions planned under the ICBRR and nutrition programmes.

The operational strategy

The plan for this operation is fully in line with CVTL and IFRC policies, procedures, commitments and mandates. With IFRC support, CVTL seeks to provide immediate and early recovery support to the most vulnerable affected families in the three districts of Baucau, Lautem and Viqueque, in a timely, effective, and efficient manner, and are supported to recover with increased disaster resilience. The operation will be implemented over a ten-month period, with the possibility for a two-month extension, especially if the projected La Niña has secondary impact in the same areas.

Needs assessments

According to various assessment reports and situation updates – including CVTL own assessments and district branches reports – the current El Niño has caused water shortages and a significant loss of crops and livestock in the Eastern coastal areas of the country. The situation has left thousands of affected people in need of assistance. CVTL assessments and secondary analyses focused on three districts: Baucau, Lautem and Viqueque. The National Society has identified the sectors of immediate household needs, health, livelihoods, nutrition, WASH and community-based risk reduction as the most crucial it can address under this operation in line with its mandate and capacity. Further, detailed, household-level assessments are underway and will inform the revision of this plan in order to refine or realign approaches with the evolving situation.

Beneficiary selection

CVTL will prioritize the most vulnerable households among affected populations in the three target districts. Focus will be on those who have not received any - or have received insufficient – assistance (especially pregnant and lactating women as well as children under five years old), from the authorities or other organizations. The main group affected by the drought are those with limited diversity in their income options. These tend to be families with high dependency ratios, communities living far from main services and without access to basics such as portable water and improved sanitation.

CVTL will ensure that programmes under this operation are aligned with its gender commitments as well with the IFRC minimum standard commitments to gender and diversity in emergency programming. Specific considerations will include the elderly, people with a disability, pregnant and lactating women, women-headed households, and households with infants or young children. These groups are more vulnerable to challenges related to access to nutrient-rich food and safe water and are more susceptible to diseases/infections. Other considerations are households that have lost all their livelihoods and are unable to recover without resorting to risky coping strategies and farmers who have lost their seed and livestock and unable to reinvest in farming.

Overall objective

This operation aims to assist 20,000 people affected by drought attributed to El Niño in the districts of Baucau, Viqueque and Lautem with appropriate relief and recovery assistance. The operation will be implemented over a 10-month period, with the possibility for extension.

Proposed strategy

The operation consists of closely integrated sectors aiming to provide:

- **Immediate household needs** assistance, via cash transfers;
- **Livelihoods** support for families to restart or diversify income sources, to practice homestead gardening and to access a daily income via cash-for-work opportunities;
- **Water, sanitation and hygiene promotion** interventions focusing on improving access to safe water, safe water storage, reducing risks associated with poor sanitation and improving hygiene behaviour;
- **Health** interventions focusing on focusing on community-based disease prevention;
- **Community-based risk reduction** measures in view of the risk of flooding due to projected La Niña;
- **Institutional disaster response capacity enhancement** (DRCE) measures aimed at increasing CVTL's preparedness for the projected La Niña and future potential disasters.

Four key aspects 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 cash transfers, will give affected people the flexibility to prioritize their immediate and diverse needs.
- **Integrated programming and resilience building:** Recovery and community risk reduction interventions are harmonized with approaches of the ICBRR programme.
- **Factoring potential for La Niña:** CVTL has recently developed a flash flood contingency plan. The plan will be updated to incorporate the risks of La Niña.

Proposed sectors of intervention

	Food security – Nutrition – Livelihoods
Outcome 1: Food and economic security of the target worst-affected households is restored	
Output 1.1: Cash transfers are provided to target households for the purchase of food	
Activities planned: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Select 500 households that will receive cash transfers • Design the cash transfers process, train CVTL staff and volunteers on it and provide selected households with orientation • Provide cash transfers to target households • Conduct post-distribution monitoring on the usage of cash transfers (covering at least 10% of target households) 	
Output 1.2: Affected households have increased access to livelihood options for income generation	
Activities planned: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consult and agree the criteria for selection of target households (through a participatory process) • Select beneficiary households, prepare beneficiary lists and sensitize them on the distribution process • Provide cash transfers or inputs for restoring or diversifying income generation sources to target households • Undertake monitoring to ensure that households that receive assistance have restored or diversified income generation sources) 	
Outcome 2 Critical nutritional status of the target community is improved	
Output 1.1: Families with pregnant or lactating women, infants and young children have increased access to nutrient-rich food	
Activities planned: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procure supplementary, nutrient-rich, food items and dispatch them to affected areas • Select households that will receive nutrient-rich food • Distribute supplementary, nutrient-rich, food items to selected households • Select pregnant and lactating women who will receive nutrition training • Organize nutrition training for selected pregnant and lactating women • Implement demonstration projects on homestead gardening (keyhole gardening) as a strategy for growing nutrient-rich food • Support selected households to establish homestead gardening strategies for growing nutrient-rich food 	
	Water, sanitation and hygiene
Outcome 3: The immediate reduction in risk of waterborne and water related diseases in targeted communities	
Output 3.1: Daily access to safe water which meets Sphere and WHO standards in terms of quantity and quality is provided to target population	
Activities planned: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct continuous assessments to identify gaps in meeting water needs of affected communities • Coordinate with local authorities and other humanitarian actors to maximize efforts • Hire and deploy trucks to distribute water to 4,000 families (20,000 people) in target communities • Procure and distribute household water storage containers to 500 households • Install rainwater harvesting systems in target communities (to benefit up to 20,000 people) 	
Output 3.2: Hygiene promotion activities which meet Sphere standards in terms of the identification and use of hygiene items provided to target population	
Activities planned: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mobilize and (re)train volunteers and train them on conducting hygiene promotion • Identify 4,000 families (20,000 people) to be reached with hygiene promotion • Reproduce information, education and communication materials for hygiene promotion • Conduct hygiene promotion activities, including on safe water and food handling, in target communities • Monitor hygiene practices in target communities, including correct use of sanitation facilities, safe water and food handling 	



Health

Outcome 4: The immediate and medium-term risks to the health of affected populations are reduced

Output 4.1: Target communities have improved knowledge and skills to assess risk, plan and implement disaster risks management measures

Activities planned:

- Mobilize and (re)train volunteers and train them on conducting community-based disease prevention activities
- Organize disease prevention and health education sessions for 4,000 families (20,000 people) in target communities
- Distribute disease prevention promotion materials alongside disease prevention and health education sessions



Institutional disaster response capacity enhancement

Outcome 5: National Society capacity to respond to disaster and crises is strengthened

Output 5.1: CVTL headquarters and branches have improved staffing and office facilities

Activities planned:

- Recruit project staff at the national headquarters and requesting branches (if gaps are identified)
- Provide essential items and personal protective equipment to the national headquarters and branches

Output 5.2: Capacity of CVTL headquarters and branches to respond to disasters is strengthened

Activities planned:

- Organize refresher training for CVTL national and branch disaster response teams
- Develop a contingency or readiness plan for the projected La Niña
- Procure and preposition preparedness stocks adequate to meet the needs of 300 families



Disaster risk reduction

Outcome 6: Community resilience to disasters is protected and restored

Output 6.1: Target communities have improved knowledge and skills to assess risk, plan and implement disaster risk management measures

Activities planned:

- Ensure integration of risk reduction initiatives across all recovery sectors
- Interpret La Niña forecasts into simple language and disseminate them to target communities for early warning
- Conduct awareness raising sessions on preventable disaster risks in target communities
- Harmonize recovery and CBRR interventions with approaches of the ICBRR programme



Quality programming

Outcome 7: Continuous and detailed assessment and analysis is used to inform the design and implementation of the operation

Output 7.1: Needs assessments are conducted and response plans updated according to findings

Activities planned:

- Mobilize staff and volunteers for assessments
- Undertake assessments to determine specific needs of beneficiaries
- Develop detailed response plans with activities that will meet identified beneficiary needs

Output 7.2: Additional assistance is considered where appropriate and incorporated into the plan

Activities planned:

- Ensure that any adjustments to initial plans are informed by continuous assessment of needs
- Conduct post-action surveys to determine the level of satisfaction among beneficiaries

Output 7.3: Mechanisms are in place to facilitate two-way communication with and ensure transparency and accountability to affected people

Activities planned:

- Provide appropriate information, including on the scope and content of projects, to affected people
- Create awareness on cash transfer programming (CTP) in communities and among key stakeholders
- Ensure that affected people can deliver feedback, report complaints in confidence and that such are actioned by CVTL

Output 7.4: Management and delivery of the operation is informed by an appropriate monitoring and evaluation system

Activities planned:

- Develop and utilize an appropriate M&E system for the operation



Programme support services

Based on the demand for the technical and coordination support required to deliver the Emergency Plan of Action (EPOA), the following programme support functions will be put in place to ensure an effective and efficient technical coordination by the CVTL: **human resources, logistics and supply chain; information technology support (IT); communications; security; planning, monitoring, evaluation, and reporting (PMER); partnerships and resource development; and finance and administration.**

For details, see [the Emergency Plan of Action](#).



Budget

The appeal budget is **CHF 798,618**. See attached [IFRC Secretariat budget](#) (Annex 1) for details.

Garry Conille
Under Secretary General
Programme and Operations Division

Elhadj As Sy
Secretary General

Reference documents



Click for:

- [Emergency Plan of Action \(EPoA\)](#)
- [Budget](#)
- [Map](#)

Contact information

For further information, please contact:

In CVTL, Dili:

- ✓ Januario Ximenes, Secretary General; email: januarioximenes_cvtl@redcross.tl
- ✓ Hermenegildo Cardoso Rente, Disaster Management Coordinator, phone: +670 7526 2063; email: hermenegildo_cvtl@redcross.tl

In IFRC Country Team, Dili:

- ✓ Harri Hiekkänen, Organizational Development Delegate; email: harri.hiekkanen@ifrc.org
- ✓ Jesper Fridolf, Surge Operations Manager; email: jesper.fridolf@ifrc.org

In IFRC Country Cluster Support Team, Jakarta:

- ✓ Giorgio Ferrario, Head of CCST and representative to ASEAN; email: giorgio.ferrario@ifrc.org

In IFRC Asia Pacific Regional Office, Kuala Lumpur:

- ✓ Martin Faller, Deputy Regional Director; email: martin.faller@ifrc.org
- ✓ Nelson Castano, Head of Disaster and Crisis Unit (DCPRR); email: nelson.castano@ifrc.org
- ✓ Necephor Mghendi, Operations Coordinator; mobile: +60 12 224 6796; email: necephor.mghendi@ifrc.org

For resource mobilization and pledges:

- ✓ Diana Ongiti, Relationship Manager, Emergencies; mobile +60 19 274 4960; email: diana.ongiti@ifrc.org
- ✓ Please send all pledges for funding to zonerm.asiapacific@ifrc.org

For in-kind donations:

- ✓ Riku Assamaki, Logistics Coordinator, Regional Logistics Unit; email: riku.assamaki@ifrc.org

For communications enquiries:

- ✓ Patrick Fuller, Communications Manager; mobile: +60 12 230 8451; email: patrick.fuller@ifrc.org

For planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting (PMER) enquiries

- ✓ Clarence Sim, Acting Head of PMER, email: clarence.sim@ifrc.org

In IFRC Geneva:

- ✓ Christine South, Operations Quality Assurance Senior Officer; email: christine.south@ifrc.org

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 (NGO's) 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**.

EMERGENCY APPEAL

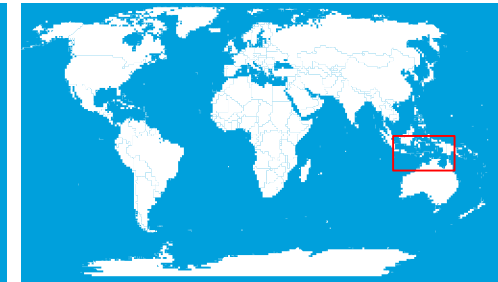
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MDRTP004 Timor Leste: Drought

Budget Group	Appeal Budget CHF
Shelter - Relief	7,800
Clothing & Textiles	3,480
Food	15,000
Seeds & Plants	44,800
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	77,400
Medical & First Aid	12,000
Ustensils & Tools	63,000
Other Supplies & Services	4,800
Cash Disbursements	120,600
Total RELIEF ITEMS, CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLIES	348,880
Computer & Telecom Equipment	11,000
Office/Household Furniture & Equipment	6,000
Total LAND, VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT	17,000
Storage, Warehousing	3,000
Dsitribution & Monitoring	20,184
Transport & Vehicle Costs	55,000
Logistics Services	2,100
Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE	80,284
International Staff	81,000
National Staff	4,800
National Society Staff	66,000
Volunteers	20,503
Total PERSONNEL	172,303
Consultants	20,000
Total CONSULTANTS & PROFESSIONAL FEES	20,000
Workshops & Training	41,100
Total WORKSHOP & TRAINING	41,100
Travel	26,500
Information & Public Relations	18,000
Communications	5,350
Financial Charges	360
Shared Support Services	20,100
Total GENERAL EXPENDITURES	70,310
Programme and Supplementary Services Recovery	48,742
Total INDIRECT COSTS	48,742
TOTAL BUDGET	798,618



Timor Leste: Drought



 Affected districts