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Emergency appeal operation update Timor Leste: Drought

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Emergency appeal n° MD RTP004	GLIDE n° DR-2016-000048-TMP
Operation update n° 4	Date of issue: 28 February 2017
Reporting period: 15 Oct 2016 to 31 Jan 2017	Operation timeframe: 15 April 2016 to 30 June 2017
Appeal budget: CHF 751,074	DREF allocated: CHF 215,752
Appeal coverage: CHF 495,468 (66%)	Funding gap: CHF 254,548
N° of people affected: 120,000	N° of people targeted: 27,500 (5,500 households)
<p>Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners actively involved in the operation: Cruz Vermelha de Timor-Leste (CVTL) is working with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in this operation. Supporting partners include the British Red Cross, Swedish Red Cross, Australian Red Cross (Australian Government), Japanese Red Cross, Canadian Red Cross and Monaco Red Cross.</p>	
<p>Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government ministries and agencies The El Nino/Drought related operation in Timor-Leste is being led by the Ministry of Interior and supported by the Ministry of Social Solidarity. The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Environment, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Public Works, Transport and Communications and the National Disaster Management Department (NDMD) are all involved in supporting government activities. • UN agencies WFP, OCHA, UNICEF, UNDP, WHO and FAO are all present and are contributing • International NGOs CARE, Caritas, Plan International, Catholic Relief Services, Mercy Corps, Oxfam, and World Vision • International Donors ECHO, Australian Government. 	

This operations update formalizes the removal of food, seed distribution and conditional cash (for livelihoods) activities from the plan of action and replaces them with provision of unconditional cash grants for meeting multipurpose needs. This change was the result of continuous assessment of community needs, incorporation of feedback from affected people and local leaders, and challenges relating to securing a tender for food that meets IFRC standards. In addition, **this update extends the operation timeframe by four months – until 30 June 2017** – to allow completion of National Society capacity building and disaster risk reduction activities which are underway and were delayed by transition of technical support focal points.

In view of the shift to unconditional cash, **a corresponding adjustment has been made within budget lines**. However, the overall strategy and budget outlined remains largely unchanged. The original rationale and evidence underpinning this plan of action also remains largely unchanged from the original but has been updated where necessary. Due to the changes, a [revision of the plan of action](#) is linked to this update.



Establishment of village committee in parlamento village, Soiquili sub village for cash transfer programme. (photo credit: Orlando de Carvalho/ Emergency Health in CVTL)

A. Situation analysis

Description of the disaster

The 2015/16 El Niño brought severe drought conditions to parts of. Loss of crop, livestock, a poor rice harvest and diminished seed stock are among the consequences that presented acute problems for the most vulnerable affected households. In Timor-Leste, the authorities sought immediate assistance for the affected population in five districts (Baucau, Cova Lima, Lautem, Oecusse and Viqueque) where the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries estimate that at least 120,000 people were severely affected.

The global El Niño event of 2015/2016 whilst now in neutral phase, affected 60 million people worldwide including in Timor-Leste. In Timor Leste, drought from delayed, intermittent or absent rain seriously affected agricultural yields due to the failure, deterioration and delay of crops. Livestock deaths, food insecurity and water scarcity further compounded poor nutrition in communities as well as seriously affected livelihoods and recovery abilities. Interagency and Government led assessments revealed that up to 120,000 people in five districts were hardest hit.

Affected communities used their usual coping mechanisms including selling of stock and assets, borrowing cash and food, reducing food portions, and consuming seed and food from stores normally reserved for the lean season.

Summary of current response

An allocation of CHF 215,752 from the IFRC Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) was made on 15 April 2016 to enable Cruz Vermelha de Timor-Leste (CVTL) to respond to the humanitarian needs of vulnerable communities affected by the drought. Prior to the DREF allocation, the IFRC Asia Pacific Regional Office (APRO) deployed a cash and livelihoods coordinator to support CVTL in undertaking an initial assessment and developing a response plan.

An emergency appeal operation was subsequently launched on 18 May 2016, seeking CHF 798,618 to address the needs created by the El Niño-induced drought – by delivering assistance to 20,000 people in the districts of Baucau, Lautem, and Viqueque – and to ensure that CVTL capacity was built in preparation for a possible La Niña event. Following the comprehensive household-level assessment, CVTL identified 5,508 households (with a total beneficiary number of 28,650) as vulnerable and, therefore, eligible to receive assistance from the National Society.



An initial revision of the plan of action was done on 15 September 2016. The initial revision increased the number of target households from 4,000 to 5,500 and focused on targeted food distribution, strengthening livelihoods with seed distribution and an integration of health and nutrition activities. This strategy was designed to prepare communities and improve resilience in preparation for the traditional lean season due from November to April.

[Operations Update #3](#) issued on 11 November extensively reported the achievements attained as of October 2016. These included reaching at least 1,300 pregnant and/or lactating women with nutrition awareness and training sessions, distribution of 155,000 litres of safe water in five communities of Bacau and Viqueque districts, and distribution of jerry cans for household water storage.

A revalidation of household assessments was undertaken by CVTL in October and November 2016. The results suggested that food security and livelihoods recovery continued to be a primary concern, especially as communities moved into the traditional lean season, but with community members preferring various approaches to enhance their coping strategies. As such, it was determined that distribution of food and seeds was not the most appropriate intervention but instead unconditional cash to meet multipurpose needs was most suitable.

Following the revalidation, the number of targeted households was reduced to 2,549. Provision of unconditional cash, in envelopes, commenced in November 2016, covering 20 communities in the three most affected districts. Distribution of cash has since been completed and post-distribution monitoring is underway.

B. Operational strategy and plan

Overall objective

The overall objective of this operation remains unchanged and is to provide 27,500 people affected by drought, attributed to El Niño, in the districts of Baucau, Viqueque and Lautem with appropriate assistance in a timely, effective, and efficient manner, and support them to recover from the impact of the drought and increase their resilience to future shocks. The adjusted activities are outlined below, together with a summary of achievements and/or challenges.

Food Security, Nutrition and Livelihoods			
Outcome 1: The coping capacities of households affected by drought is improved.	Outputs		% of achievement
		Output 1.1: Vulnerable women's knowledge of nutrition is improved.	
Activities	Is implementation on time?		% progress (estimate)
	Yes (x)	No (x)	
1.1.1 Select pregnant and lactating women who will receive nutrition advice and information	x		100%
1.1.2 Organize and conduct nutrition advice and information sessions for selected pregnant and lactating women	x		100%
1.1.3 Conduct post activity survey on the nutritional perceptions and knowledge of selected participants (covering at least 10% of target households)	x		Planned for March
Progress towards outcome			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More than 1,300 pregnant and lactating women have been reached with nutrition awareness/training sessions. The survey will take place simultaneously with the post-cash distribution survey in March 2017. 			

	Outputs		% of achievement
		Output 1.2: Affected households received unconditional cash grants	
Activities	Is implementation on time?		% progress (estimate)
	Yes (x)	No (x)	
1.2.1 Select 2,550 beneficiary households, prepare beneficiary lists and sensitize them on the distribution process	x		100%
1.2.2 Select and provide training to CVTL personnel on CTP	x		100%
1.2.3 Provide unconditional cash transfers to 2,550 target households	x		100%
1.2.4 Conduct post-distribution survey on the usage of cash transfers (covering at least 10% of target households)	x		100%
Progress towards outcome			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provision of unconditional cash transfers has been completed. The post-assistance survey was undertaken in February 2017; results will be included in final report. 			

Water, sanitation and hygiene promotion			
Outcome 2: The immediate reduction in risk of waterborne and water related diseases in targeted communities	Outputs		% of achievement
		Output 2.1: Daily access to safe water which meets Sphere and WHO standards in terms of quantity and quality is provided to target population	
Activities	Is implementation on time?		% progress (estimate)
	Yes (x)	No (x)	
2.1.1 Conduct continuous assessments to identify gaps in meeting water needs of affected communities	x		100%

2.1.2 Coordinate with local authorities and other humanitarian actors to maximize efforts	x		100%
2.1.3 Hire and deploy trucks to distribute water to 4,000 households (20,000 people) in target communities	x		100%
2.1.4 Procure and distribute household water storage containers to 2,000 households	x		100%
	Outputs		% of achievement
	Output 2.2: A sustainable access to safe water is provided to the target population through installation of rainwater harvesting systems		100%
Activities	Is implementation on time?		% progress (estimate)
	Yes (x)	No (x)	
2.2.1 Identify ten locations (within the three target districts) for installation of rainwater capture systems	x		100%
2.2.2 Meet with target communities to agree on location and on post construction maintenance of systems	x		100%
2.2.3 Purchase and supply of materials for rainwater capture systems	x		100%
2.2.4 Install rainwater harvesting systems in 10 target communities	x		100%
Progress towards outcome			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All activities completed and reported in Operations Update #3. The remaining two water catchment systems for villages in Burubato and Vaniria have been completed January 2017. For community centre and women's collective building, the water tanks have been installed. The communities have also met with the National Program for Village Development (PNDS) and confirmed that the tanks are ready to be used. 			

Outcome 2: The immediate reduction in risk of waterborne and water related diseases in targeted communities	Outputs		% of achievement
	Output 2.3: Hygiene promotion activities which meet Sphere standards in terms of the identification and use of hygiene items provided to target population		90%
Activities	Is implementation on time?		% progress (estimate)
	Yes (x)	No (x)	
2.3.1 Mobilize hygiene promotion volunteers to conduct hygiene promotion/awareness activities	x		100%
2.3.2 Reproduce information, education and communication materials for hygiene promotion	x		100%
2.3.3 Conduct hygiene promotion activities, including on safe water and food handling to 5,500 households in target communities	x		100%
2.3.4 Provide 5,500 households with hygiene kits, including a minimum of 250g soap per person per month for three months	x		100%
2.3.5 Monitor hygiene practices in target communities, including correct use of sanitation facilities and safe water and food handling	x		Extension
Progress towards outcome			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Although some delays were caused by inability to assess certain parts of Viqueque district as the communities live in dispersed houses and are only accessible by foot, most of the activities has been successfully completed. The distribution of hygiene kits has been completed, reaching in total 4,564 households. Monitoring of hygiene practices in target communities is carried out via post-monitoring visits. This activity has been delayed and with the timeframe extension it is now scheduled for March 2017. 			

National Society Capacity Building			
Outcome 3: National Society capacity to respond to disaster and crises is strengthened	Outputs		% of achievement
	Output 3.1: CVTL headquarters and branches have improved staffing and office facilities		100%
Activities	Is implementation on time?		% progress (estimate)
	Yes (x)	No (x)	

3.1.1 Recruit project staff at the national headquarters and requesting branches (if gaps are identified)	x		100%
3.1.2 Provide essential items and personal protective equipment to the national headquarters and branches	x		100%
	Outputs		% of achievement
	Output 3.2: Capacity of CVTL headquarters and branches to respond to disasters is strengthened		60%
Activities	Is implementation on time?		% progress (estimate)
	Yes (x)	No (x)	
3.2.1 Undertake inventory of available emergency supplies in each target district to identify gaps	x		100%
3.2.2 Assess and secure suitable storage space for prepositioning emergency stocks securely	x		80%
3.2.3 Procure and preposition preparedness stocks adequate to meet the needs of up to 400 households	x		75%
3.2.4 Develop/update standard operating procedures for emergency response		x	Extension
3.2.5 Develop/update standard operating procedures for cash transfer programming in emergencies		x	Extension
3.2.6 Procure motorbikes (1 motorbike per affected branch) for enhanced mobility in response		x	Extension
3.2.7 Organize refresher training for national/branch disaster response teams	x		100%
Challenges			
<p>It is, to a larger extent, due to delays in implementing some activities under this sector that an extension of timeframe is being sought. National Society capacity building activities could not be concluded as earlier envisioned due to the transition of technical support focal points. The National Society Development Delegate for Timor Leste ended his mission during the last quarter of 2016 and that left a brief gap. In addition, the recruitment of a Disaster Risk Management Delegate for the Jakarta CCST was also delayed, denying CVTL much-needed technical support for moving forward some of the activities. Both positions have since been filled and the incumbents have developed clear action plans, with the National Society, which will be achieved during the extended period.</p> <p>The National Society is also considering to undertake the revised Well Prepared National Society (WPNS+) self-assessment as a step towards an evidence-based approach to enhancing its disaster response capacity. Should this plan – for WPNS+ – be endorsed by the leadership, CVTL will require technical guidance to move the process forward.</p>			

Community-based risk reduction			
Outcome 4: Community resilience to disasters is protected and restored	Outputs		% of achievement
	Output 4.1: Knowledge and skills to assess risk, plan and implement disaster risk management measures in target communities have improved		20%
Activities	Is implementation on time?		% progress (estimate)
	Yes (x)	No (x)	
4.1.1 Ensure integration of risk reduction initiatives across all recovery sectors	x		100%
4.1.2 Develop a contingency or readiness plan for disasters/crises for which Timor Leste is prone	x		20%
4.1.3 Interpret seasonal forecasts into simple language and disseminate them to target communities for early warning		x	Extension
4.1.4 Conduct awareness raising sessions on reducing disaster risks in target communities using radio and posters		x	Extension
4.1.5 Harmonize recovery and CBRR interventions with approaches of the ICBRR programme	x		50%
Challenges			
CBRR activities could not be concluded as earlier envisioned due to the transition of technical support focal points.			

The recruitment of a Disaster Risk Management Delegate for the Jakarta CCST – a role that provides CVTL with technical support in these aspects – was delayed significantly. The position has since been filled and the incumbent has agreed an implantation plan with CVTL. Moving forward, implementation is now expected to be completed by June 2016. During the same time, CVTL will utilize radio broadcasts and social media updates, among others, to raise awareness on reducing disaster risks in target communities.

Quality programming			
Outcome 5: Continuous and detailed assessment and analysis is used to inform the design and implementation of the operation.	Outputs		% of achievement
	Output 5.1: Needs assessments are conducted and response plans updated according to findings		100%
Activities	Is implementation on time?		% progress (estimate)
	Yes (x)	No (x)	
5.1.1 Mobilize staff and volunteers for assessments	x		100%
5.1.2 Undertake assessments to determine specific needs of beneficiaries	x		100%
5.1.3 Develop detailed response plans with activities that will meet identified beneficiary needs	x		100%
	Outputs		% of achievement
	Output 5.2: Additional assistance is considered where appropriate and incorporated into the plan		100%
Activities	Is implementation on time?		% progress (estimate)
	Yes (x)	No (x)	
5.2.1 Ensure that any adjustments to initial plans are informed by continuous assessment of needs	x		100%
	Outputs		% of achievement
	Output 5.3: Mechanisms are in place to facilitate two-way communication with and ensure transparency and accountability to affected people		75%
Activities	Is implementation on time?		% progress (estimate)
	Yes (x)	No (x)	
5.3.1 Provide appropriate information, including on the scope and content of projects, to affected people	x		50%
5.3.2 Ensure that affected people can deliver feedback, report complaints in confidence (CVTL Hotline)	x		100%
	Outputs		% of achievement
	Output 5.4: Management and delivery of the operation is informed by an appropriate monitoring and evaluation system		Continuous
Activities	Is implementation on time?		% progress (estimate)
	Yes (x)	No (x)	
5.4.1 Develop and utilize an appropriate M&E system for the operation	x		50%
5.4.2 Conduct post-action surveys to determine the level of satisfaction among beneficiaries	x		25%
5.4.3 Lessons learned workshop held for volunteers, branch staff, headquarters staff and governance		x	Extension
5.4.4 External evaluation to capture lessons for future operations		x	Extension
Progress towards outcome			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exit surveys have been conducted with 10% of recipients receiving cash in envelope. Complaints hotline has been established at CVTL headquarters and has been promoted since October 2016. Complaints and help desk established at each CTP site during distribution. Participatory lessons learned workshops will be held in the three affected branches in April 2017 The end-line evaluation will start in March and the final report shall be available in May 2017. 			

Reference documents



Click here for:

- [Revised Emergency Appeal](#)
- [Revision #1 of Plan of Action](#)
- [Revision #2 of Plan of Action](#)

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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

28/02/2017

MDRTP004 Timor Leste: Drought

Budget Group	Appeal Budget CHF
Shelter - Relief	10,400
Clothing & Textiles	4,640
Food	51,990
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	77,634
Teaching Materials	3,730
Utensils & Tools	32,041
Other Supplies & Services	31,690
Cash Disbursements	113,730
Total RELIEF ITEMS, CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLIES	325,855
Vehicles Purchase	7,500
Computer & Telecom Equipment	8,528
Total LAND, VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT	16,028
Storage, Warehousing	9,100
Distribution & Monitoring	16,500
Transport & Vehicle Costs	60,352
Logistics Services	7,801
Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE	93,753
International Staff	115,200
National Society Staff	30,042
Volunteers	20,503
Total PERSONNEL	165,745
Consultants	15,000
Total CONSULTANTS & PROFESSIONAL FEES	15,000
Workshops & Training	21,700
Total WORKSHOP & TRAINING	21,700
Travel	27,500
Information & Public Relations	10,000
Office Costs	10,000
Communications	5,951
Financial Charges	250
Shared Support Services	13,452
Total GENERAL EXPENDITURES	67,153
Programme and Supplementary Services Recovery	45,840
Total INDIRECT COSTS	45,840
TOTAL BUDGET	751,074
Available Resources	
Multilateral Contributions	495,468
TOTAL AVAILABLE RESOURCES	495,468
NET EMERGENCY APPEAL NEEDS	255,606