



## HUMANITARIAN UPDATE TIMOR-LESTE

REPORTING PERIOD FROM 5 TO 20 APRIL 2008

The Humanitarian Update (HU) aims at providing a periodic analysis of current humanitarian issues, facts and policy developments in Timor-Leste with special attention given to internally displaced people. The HU is based on voluntary information inputs from UN Agencies, Funds and Programmes, NGO members of the Humanitarian Coordination Committee and other partners. It analyses information from a variety of sector coordination meetings involving Timorese authorities. The HU is coordinated and issued by OCHA/UNMIT Integrated Humanitarian Coordination Team (IHCT), usually on a fortnightly basis. Contributions and comments can be sent to the OCHA/UNMIT IHCT in Dili, POCs: [Louisa.medhurst@undp.org](mailto:Louisa.medhurst@undp.org) (mobile: +670 7365578) and [hadin@un.org](mailto:hadin@un.org), (mobile +670 7311643).

### OF NOTE

- 17 April: The President of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste José Ramos-Horta returned after two months medical recovery in Darwin. He was welcomed by crowds of people who lined the streets to greet him and by the Timorese political leadership, diplomatic heads of missions and UN representatives. The UN SRSG Atul Khare, while greeting the President, said that he looks "forward to continuing the UN's work with the President in promoting democratic governance, strengthening the rule of law, supporting the review and reform of the security sector, and furthering socio-economic development".
- 15 April: Baucau district court handed down guilty verdicts for six youth on trial for their involvement in the August violence in Baucau, including the burning of the CRS office. One person received a 10 month sentence, with a probationary period of 18 months and five others received a one year sentence, with a probationary period of two years.
- 12 April: Three IDP families moved to Bekora Market and were welcomed by the Chefe de Aldeia. The households were eligible for the recovery packages after having sheltered at President Ramos-Horta's residence compound previously.
- The process of verification of IDP families from the Hospital Camp and around is underway. Once completed, families will have the options to return home – as a vast majority has expressed an interest in so doing – or to relocate in transitional shelter units if eligible.
- To date, according to MSS estimates, an overall 492 IDP families have benefited from the Government's recovery package and returned to their former homes.



Returnee in Urahou, Ermera, three weeks later Photo: Martine Perret/UNMIT

### HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE UPDATE

#### GENERAL FOOD DISTRIBUTIONS

##### Dili:

- The March Cycle, which constitutes the final general distribution of half rations by WFP was and completed with an acceptance rate of 99% of the IDP camps in Dili. A total of 63,232 beneficiaries received Food Aid.
- WFP has provided beneficiary lists, ration cards and handover support to the Government. MSS will take over full responsibility for implementing the general food distribution from April to June. Additional technical support to MSS with regard to logistics will be looked at by WFP.
- The responsibility for the implementation of the general food distribution from April onwards will be a collaboration between MSS and Camp Managers. MSS will supply food aid at half ration (Rice 4kg/person/month) for the IDPs from April onwards, based on current number of food aid recipients, less Civil Servants. MSS is working at excluding those IDPs who are Civil Servants as they already benefit from a Government distribution of 30kg pf rice per month. However, their family members who are IDPs would still receive the 4kg rice.
- With the exception of one camp (Ex-Chinese Consulate Sional), distributions have not yet started. Remaining camp distributions are scheduled to commence Monday 21 April 2008.

### Food distribution in the Districts:

According to MSS, the figures for the March rice distribution in the Eastern districts are as follows:

Rice was distributed to:

- 139 chiefs of families (742 persons) in Viqueque town.
- 415 chiefs of families (2128 families) in Uatolari.
- 105 chiefs of families (732 persons) in Uatocarbau.
- 8 chiefs of families (498 persons) in Baucau.

## **WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE**

- The WatSan WG members continue with ongoing activities such as trucking water and monitoring water quality, cleaning septic tanks, partnering with health and hygiene promotion and the ongoing maintenance of water and sanitation facilities in the IDP camps in Dili. These services continue to be provided or coordinated by DNSAS, Plan, UNICEF, Oxfam, HealthNet, Triangle GH, CRS and IOM.

- Activities conducted during the reporting period in the following camps:

Collegio San Jose: Oxfam has built six new latrines.

Hera Port: Oxfam reports that shower blocks are being rehabilitated into combined shower and latrine units.

Canossa Lecidere: Oxfam has increased the capacity of the water systems so that the camp no longer requires water trucking.

Balide Seminario: Oxfam has increased the capacity of the water systems so that the camp no longer requires water trucking.

Hospital: Oxfam reports that drainage has been repaired.

Metinaro: Plan continued repair and maintenance activities. Plan also coordinated with DNSAS and IOM as the SLS to empty the septic tank, they monitored/supervised construction activities of 108 units of new Latrines. Plan distributed hollow blocks to the IDP community who participated in Water Cement Water Jar training. They did an assessment of all septic tanks in the camp with DNSAS and with Plan's coordination DNSAS has now started emptying the septic tanks.

Jardim: Plan continued repair and maintenance activities, they replaced one leaking tank and replaced another leaking tank (metal tank of 4,200 litre capacity) with a plastic tank of 5000 litre capacity. Plan WES Emergency Team drained out excess surface drainage caused by the heavy rains.

Motael: Plan continued repair and maintenance activities. Plan WES Emergency Team drained out excess surface water caused by the heavy rains and conducted assessments for the improvement of WatSan conditions.

Clinic Santa Maria: Plan conducted assessments for the improvement of WatSan conditions

Sao Miguel: Plan continued repair and maintenance activities and conducted assessments for the improvement of WatSan conditions.

Farol Primary school: Plan WES Emergency Team drained out excess surface water caused by the heavy rains.

Ex-CVTL office: UNICEF reports that the construction of semi-permanent latrines and showers (4 latrines, 4 shower cubicles) has begun.

Airport: UNICEF reports that the installation of shallow bore wells has started; three shallow bore wells with depth between 12 to 15m will be constructed. The rehabilitation of latrine and shower structures is currently ongoing.

Meteorological: UNICEF reports that the installation of shallow bore wells has started; one shallow bore well with depth between 12 to 15m will be constructed

- Oxfam has supported DNSAS to develop and implement an IDP camp monitoring form.
- UNICEF and CRS have conducted monitoring and assessment of the water and sanitation situation in all seven IDP Camps in Baucau district.
- UNICEF has shared with the WATSAN WG the WASH Capacity building plan for 2008 provided by UNICEF regional office in Bangkok, which includes training on WASH Cluster Coordination, an important training opportunity.
- The Watsan WG has revised and presented the previously developed decommissioning guidelines at a brainstorming session on decommissioning. It is important ensure that there are clear roles and responsibilities for decommissioning are established between stakeholders, especially the WatSan agency, SLS, Camp Management and Government.

## **HEALTH**

- Drug Supplies: In the last three weeks, there was a shortage of drug supplies, which affected the functioning of the mobile clinics. According to Dili District Health Services (DHS) there is a new process for requests for drugs from Central Pharmacy (SAMES). All drugs need to be requested

through the responsible Community Health Center (CHC) - i.e. drugs for the mobile clinics for the Airport IDP camp will need to be ordered through the Comoro CHC. The CHCs will then request through DHS to SAMES. NGOs that provide mobile clinic services have to order drug supplies through the local CHC. The new director of SAMES is implementing these new procedures in order to better plan and prevent drug shortages (as the one last year). CHCs are advised to keep a drug supply for three months. The MoH suggested that in cases where IDP camps are very close to Community Health Centers (e.g. Sional, Airport), mobile clinic services could be stopped. Discussions are ongoing to ensure that access to health services is maintained.

- Surveillance: In calendar weeks 15 and 16, 165 cases of dengue fever have been reported; no cases of hemorrhagic dengue fever have been reported. The number of cases of Malaria remains stable, while there is a reduction in the number of diarrhea cases. So far, there has been a problem to receive good surveillance data from IDP camps. Two epidemiologists from Cuba have now arrived, who will help to collect data from the mobile clinics, so the MoH hopes to be able to share a first report next week. Currently the new Malaria treatment protocol is being socialised.
- Coordination: In the special meeting on the TSA, as well as in the meeting on 10 April it was suggested that the Terms of Reference of the Health Sector WG be reviewed and improvements be suggested for the mechanism for Technical Working Groups (e.g. Nutrition, mobile clinics, health promotion) to feed into the Health Sector WG as well as the frequency of meetings.

## CHILD PROTECTION

- The Protection WG noted rumours of alleged child kidnappings. To date these rumours are unsubstantiated, but MSS Child Protection Unit, has together with the Child Protection WG developed a statement requesting further information from the public. Focal Points for response have been appointed within the Child Protection Unit. The statement was released last week by MSS.
- Plan started a new library for IDP camps which commenced operations on the 14 April. It covers an additional 7 IDP camps. They now have 3 mobile libraries visiting 27 IDP camps per week.

## EDUCATION

- UNICEF is supporting the Ministry of Education's Department of Non-Formal Education in providing literacy programmes to adolescents/young people in two IDP Camps namely Metinaro and Lakoto. In addition, 350 basic literacy tutor/teachers are currently trained at the Non Formal Education Centre: UNICEF along with the Secretariat of State for Youth and Sports and national NGOs, is supporting Life Skills Based Education training for Young people in 6 districts namely Manatuto, Liquica, Maliana, Baucau, Lautem and Dili. Currently these trainings are being held in Dili at Alola Resources centre, Comoro Child and Youth centre and in Liquica centre.

## RECOVERY PROCESS UPDATE

### UPDATE ON IDP MOVEMENTS

#### Transitional Shelter

- On 12 April, 3 IDP families moved to Bekora Market and were welcomed by the Chefe de Aldeia. These households are eligible beneficiaries for the recovery packages, they had sheltered at President Ramos-Horta's residence previously.
- The process of verification of families from the Hospital Camp is underway and once complete, they will be assigned transitional shelter unit if eligible.
- Plan reports that two child friendly spaces being constructed at the new Becora Market transitional shelter.

#### Return/Resettlement to Homes Dili/Districts:

- To date, according to MSS estimates, an overall 492 IDP families have benefited from the Government's recovery package and returned to their former homes.

## HAMUTUK HARI'I FUTURU OVERALL COORDINATION

- The Inter-Ministerial Committee meeting of 11 April 2008 agreed on a proposal for an overall coordination mechanism between the Hamutuk Hari'i Futuru pillar working groups of the National Recovery Strategy (housing, community trust building, security and stability, local socio-economic development, and social protection), as well as the Sector Working Groups of Protection, Water and Sanitation, and Site Liaison Support (camp management) which deal with assistance to IDPs

in camps in order to ensure the effectiveness of the implementation of the recovery strategy. The TORs and the first meeting are being developed.

#### **KONFIANSA ACTIVITIES (COMMUNITY RECONCILIATION, CONFIDENCE BUILDING, MONITORING)**

- The Water and Sanitation WG discussed the WatSan implications of the national recovery strategy and noted that some returning IDPs may face difficulties accessing water in areas where the water systems were destroyed as a result of the crisis, such as in Manleuana. The two significant conclusions from the meeting were that DNSAS will require additional funds to repair water systems where significant damage has occurred and that effective dialogue with communities is a key factor in improving water access/ distribution. DNSAS has only one staff allocated to dialogue in Dili and will require additional support in this area if areas of return are to be addressed. CRS assisted DNSAS conduct the dialogue needed to being addressing the water issues in Manleuana, and will provide the group with lessons learned from this model. This issue will be raised to be approached coherently within the Social Protection and Socio-Economic Development pillars.
- Plan coordinated and supported 10 young people from Becora in cleaning the Bhakita orphanage. They also provided soccer, volleyball and basketball equipment to youth in Becora. Plan held a youth retreat on the theme of 'Peaceful youth, Peaceful nation'; participants came from the communities of Becora, Bairopite and Kampung Alor; the IDP camps of Motael, Jardim, Farol and Obrigado Barak and Becora and Karantina Transitional Shelters.

#### **UMA ACTIVITIES (TRANSITIONAL SHELTER AND HOUSING)**

- The Site Liaison Support (SLS) WG has been making policy recommendations and advocating on various issues revolving around the Government of Timor Leste's National Recovery Strategy, specifically as it relates to IDPs within the Hari'i Hamutuk Uma (HHU) programme. The group has made recommendations on the general return process, particularly on how SLS teams may be integrated with the HHU process by supporting and monitoring preliminary return activities. In terms of advocacy, the primary activities have been raising awareness for the need for increased return monitoring and security within receiving communities.

#### **ESTABILIDADE ACTIVITIES (SECURITY AND STABILITY)**

- Within the reporting period, 6 new police posts were created in Dili: in Maleuana (2 posts), new Bekora Market, Kampung Baru, Taibese Market, Bekora Bus Terminal, Tuanalaran and Fatumeta. Two more are planned in Bekora and Kapela. These police posts, manned by PNTL officers, were created with the aim to facilitate the return of IDPs to their communities. This constitutes a positive step towards a stable return process. However, the alleged connection of these police posts with the Joint Command and in particular with F-FDTL raised concerns.
- Displaced and other vulnerable children in Timor-Leste are greatly at risk of violence, exploitation and abuse. To strengthen support services to crisis-affected children and women, particularly police and social services, UNICEF is working with the PNTL, particularly Community Police and the Vulnerable Persons Unit (VPU) of the PNTL/UNPOL to establish child-friendly police stations across the country including areas of return, relocation and displacement based on the Rules of Procedure for Child Victims and Children at Risk. Timor-Leste's second child-friendly police station was created on 7 April 2008 in Liquica district. Children, police officers and community members worked together to create a child-friendly interview room allowing officers from the Vulnerable Persons' Unit (VPU) of the Timorese National Police (PNTL) to offer a warm welcome to vulnerable children, including child victims of abuse, violence and exploitation when initiating an investigation process. At the same time, VPU officers are trained on the Rules of Procedure for Children at Risk, Child Victims and Children in Conflict with the Law. VPU officers are critical at times when many children are the primary victims of violence, conflict and crisis. UNICEF has been working with the VPU since the establishment of the PNTL. The VPU, comprising national police officers and UN police officers, specialises in investigating gender-based violence and other crimes against women and children. UNICEF has provided training on child rights, child-friendly investigation techniques, and laws and procedures in the justice system. The first child-friendly police station was inaugurated in Dili in August 2007 and it is part of a joint effort between National VPU and UNICEF to establish such spaces in all districts nationwide.



## IDPs IN THE DISTRICTS

- Austcare protection teams in the Eastern districts (Baucau, Viqueque and Lautem) have been monitoring IDP numbers and locations in order to update currently available data. They have started with Lautem district.
- Based on the data collected by the Lautem Protection Team, the following update on the number and location of IDPs in Lautem District was derived:

Sub-District	No. of IDPs who have returned to Dili	No of Student-IDPs who have returned to Dili	No. of IDPs currently residing in the Sub-district	Total No. of IDPs
Lospalos	5,716	420	397	<b>6,533</b>
Tutuala	301	378	41	<b>720</b>
Moru (Lautem)	1,310	683	127	<b>2,120</b>
Luro	398	379	217	<b>994</b>
Iliomar	335	679	65	<b>1,079</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,060</b>	<b>2,539</b>	<b>847</b>	<b>11,446</b>

- This data from Lautem shows that some 93% of the people who moved to Lautem District from Dili during the conflict have returned to Dili. However, most of them are staying in the IDP camps in Dili instead of going back to their homes. Limited access to humanitarian assistance, work and educational opportunities in the districts have driven these IDPs back to Dili.
- In Baucau, activities focused on the distribution of IDP Profile forms designed to generate the same information (as above) from the sub-districts of Venilale, Vemasse, Quelicai and Baguia. The same activity was initiated in Viqueque, mainly in Ossu Sub-District. It is anticipated that complete information on the number and location of IDPs 2006 for the region will be completed in the month of April.
- In Viqueque district, all the IDPs from 2007 who were living in Fatuhada (Viqueque) have now moved back to their homes. Continuing peace-building activities are planned, including civic education workshops and facilitated dialogues.
- Austcare facilitated a community workshop and dialogue for IDPs in Tutuala on 27-28 March as part of a series of dialogues and workshops throughout each subdistrict in the eastern districts.

## NATURAL HAZARDS

- Floods: Saturday, 5 April 2008: Heavy rains led to flooding of the Hera Port IDP camp. 46 IDPs temporarily relocated to the Hera Primary School, and 60 IDPs sheltered in a room inside the F-FDTL Hera Port compound. IOM provided blankets and transport assistance to the IDPs. The Ministry of Social Solidarity provided food assistance and blankets. On Sunday morning, the IDPs returned to Hera Port IDP camp.
- Earthquakes and alerts: Saturday, 19 April 2008: Two earthquakes of magnitude 6.0 on Richter scale occurred:
  - at 1212 hours local time, magnitude 6.0, epicenter at 11.7 km depth, 88 km North of Dili
  - at 1921 hours local time, magnitude 6.0, epicenter at 10.0 km depth, 78 km North of DiliOn Sunday, 20 April 2008 at 2201 local time, an earthquake of magnitude 5.6 on Richter scale occurred with an epicenter at 6.0 km depth, 75 km North of Dili. No tsunami warnings were issued as magnitudes were below the range of concern.

## SECURITY UPDATE

The overall security situation during the reporting period has been generally calm although some tensions have been reported in the Western districts where military operations are ongoing. Specific security issues of interest during the reporting period are as follows:

### SECURITY-RELATED EVENTS

#### 2-9 APRIL

- Eight members of the Salsinha group surrendered. It is estimated the 15 group members remain.
- Throughout the week, a number of members of the JCC and the Government stated that the operation will use force to capture Salsinha.

- According to UN incident statistics, there were 32 recorded incidents across Timor-Leste in the reporting period.
- 6 April: Former militia leader Eurico Guterres, the only Indonesian citizen sentenced to a prison term for serious human rights violations committed in Timor in 1999 was acquitted by a Court of Appeal in Jakarta and freed from jail. On 8th April, the National Mandate party named him as a candidate for national parliamentary elections in Indonesia.

#### 9-16 APRIL

- Salsinha gave a number of interviews to the media on the events of February 11th and the possibility of his surrender.
- According to UN incident statistics, there were 25 recorded incidents across Timor Leste in the reporting period. This is less than the last reporting week (32) but below the average of about 30.
- 9 April: Jaime Soares, the coordinator of Airport IDP Camp stated that the IDPs would conduct demonstrations in Dili once the state of exception had been lifted, to protest against the Government's decision to reduce food rations by half.
- 13 April: President Ramos Horta in an interview on Timorese Television said that the State will not give amnesty to Salsinha and his group.
- 15th April: The spokesperson for the Joint Command Lt Col Filomeno Paixao stated that the Salsinha group numbers 16 persons with 14 rifles.
- 15 April: In a press conference, Lt Col Paixao stated that Salsinha had informed the Joint Command that he would surrender on 27th April.
- 23 February – 23 March: The Prime Minister said that 20 cases of human rights violations were filed against the Joint Command, he said there was a need to investigate these cases.

#### IMPACT ON HUMANITARIAN ACCESS AND ISSUES

- Humanitarian Access and Safety of Staff: A number of concerns have been raised regarding the access and security of NGO staff mainly in districts where the Joint Command is functioning.
- Human Rights Abuses: The Provedor's Office has been monitoring and reporting any Human Rights violations committed by the Joint Command during their operations, such as those reported above.
- Community Dialogue: While the importance of security with regard to the return process has been acknowledged, it is important that the return process and in particular dialogue activities remain a civilian matter. The UN Humanitarian Coordinator and humanitarian partners have raised concerns with regard to the involvement of the Joint Command in humanitarian activities, namely, community dialogue, IDPs and the recovery process. In this light, the Konfiansa WG has sent a letter to the Vice Prime Minister, Minister of Solidarity and Secretary of State for Security, expressing the group's concerns.

## COORDINATION AND POINTS OF CONTACT

Please find below the list of focal points and their contact details for each one of the Sector or Pillar Working Groups in reference to the 2008 TSA (Transitional Strategy and Appeal) and in particular the National Recovery Strategy (*Hamutuk Hari'i Futuru*). For updates / corrections related to the POC list below, please feedback to OCHA/UNMIT IHCT: [adelina.lopes@undp.org](mailto:adelina.lopes@undp.org).

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## SELECTED WEBSITES

Financial Tracking System: [www.reliefweb.int/fts](http://www.reliefweb.int/fts)  
 Humanitarian Reform: [www.humanitarianreform.org](http://www.humanitarianreform.org)  
 IASC: [www.humanitarianinfo.org](http://www.humanitarianinfo.org)  
 IRIN news: [www.irinnews.org](http://www.irinnews.org)  
 OCHA Regional Office Asia Pacific: <http://ochaonline.un.org/roap>  
 ReliefWeb: [www.reliefweb.int](http://www.reliefweb.int)  
 The Human Development Report 2007-2008: <http://hdr.undp.org/en/reports/global/hdr2007-2008/>  
 The Humanitarian Policy Group: <http://www.odi.org.uk/hpg/index.html>  
 The Millennium Goals Indicators: <http://millenniumindicators.un.org/unsd/mdg/Data.aspx?cr=800>  
 The Sphere Project: [www.sphereproject.org](http://www.sphereproject.org)  
 UNMIT: [www.unmit.org](http://www.unmit.org)

## OF INTEREST

*Humanitarian Agenda 2015: the State of the Humanitarian Enterprise*, Feinstein International Center, Tufts University, March 2008, (<http://fic.tufts.edu/downloads/HA2015FinalReport.pdf>)