

**TIMOR-LESTE**

UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator**Timor-Leste Humanitarian Country Team**

Monday, 5 October 2009, 1400-1600
UNMIT Conference Room A

SUMMARY**1. Introduction and adoption of the agenda and matters from the previous meeting (DSRSG/RC/HC)**

- Agenda adopted, minutes were shared and no comment received.
- DSRSG Reske-Nielsen acknowledged that Alfredo Zamudio in his capacity as head of NRC has been re-nominated to represent the INGOs as the co-chair of the HCT.
- DSRSG Reske-Nielsen introduced Gary Grey, the new chief of UNMIT Political Affairs Unit.

2. Political briefing (UNMIT Political Affairs)

- Upcoming suco elections are taking place this Friday, 9 October. Preparations for the elections are running smoothly and there is not expected to be any problems in the lead up to and during the elections.
- DSRSG Reske-Nielsen added his congratulations to UNPOL and the PNTL for collaborating to come up with a joint security plan for the elections.
- The biggest challenge facing the elections according to DSRSG Reske-Nielsen is logistical, as many Timorese don't have access to transport or to communication thereby making their electoral participation challenging. Poor weather could also potentially hamper participation in the election, particularly in remote locations due to poor road conditions.
- There has been further fallout from the controversial decision by the Timorese government to release former pro-Indonesian militia leader Marternus Bere who was indicted in 2003 for committing crimes against humanity in 1999. FRETILIN has introduced a motion in parliament on this issue which calls for a vote of no confidence. It is not clear at this point whether this motion will result in a new national election. Bere continues to sit in the Indonesian Embassy and the courts are still considering his case.

3. Discussion on Disaster Risk Management

- **Update on the National Disaster Risk Management exercise held on 15 September**
- On 15 September an exercise was held at the Delta Nova Centre which was designed to improve the preparedness of the Government of Timor-Leste to respond to significant disaster events, in conjunction with key partner agencies.
- The exercise was facilitated by the National Disaster Management Directorate in the Ministry of Social Solidarity, with the assistance of UNDP and was part of the overall process of rolling out of the National Disaster Risk Management Policy.
- The exercise objectives included:
 - To improve inter-agency and inter-sectoral networking, and in particular to enhance mechanisms for communicating with each other prior to and during emergencies.
 - To help participants learn more the existing arrangements for disaster management.

**TIMOR-LESTE**

UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator

- To help to consolidate the strengths of the existing system, as well as identify any gaps and shortcomings in the current arrangements
- To help to raise awareness of disaster management needs throughout the government and partner agencies
- DSRSR Reske-Nielsen noted that institutional arrangements for disaster response need to be clarified and in particular the role of the F-FDTL, which should fall under civilian oversight.
- This was further supported by a comment made by one of the participants in the workshop who stated that it was clear that the government had little concept of how they will coordinate in the case of a disaster. It was recommended that the international community work through the clusters to support line Ministries to develop disaster preparedness plans.

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• ACTION: Call an ICCG meeting to discuss cluster support to the GoTL for disaster preparedness.

- **Briefing on IOM and UNDP Disaster Risk Management projects**
- The main purposes of the IOM project are twofold:
 1. Institutional strengthening of the Government at the national level to coordinate and manage the preparedness, mitigation, response and recovery aspects of disaster risk management;
 - Establishment of administrative and HR systems in the SOS Office as well as NDMD
 - Development of ICT plan for the Ministry
 - Ensure MSS response capacity is functional by assessing and making changes to the warehouse management systems and contingency stocking at national and district level
 - Facilitate NDMD coordination mechanisms through inter-Ministerial and inter-agency coordination for a – CBDRM WG, NPP
 - Facilitate the sensitization of the National Disaster Risk Management Policy to the population
 2. To increase the ability of sub-national governments and communities to prepare for, respond to and recover from disasters in their own areas.
 - Establishment of a flexible fund for NGOs to conduct Community Based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM) activities in selected districts.
- The Project will continue for the next two years with an additional AUD 2M
- Based on a recent review the main objectives of project will remain.
- NGOs will continue to conduct CBDRM activities intensively in some communities and continue to support DDMCs.
- IOM will support NDMD to assist remaining DDMCs

Please see annex I for more detail

- UNDP provided a brief overview of their disaster risk management project which is funded by ECHO. The project is focusing on building capacity for disaster risk management at the national level through the establishment of a disaster operations centre for the National Disaster Management Directorate (NDMD). This includes establishing a standard disaster

**TIMOR-LESTE**

UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator

reporting format, data collection, management and processing using Dev Info. and the development of a manual of standard operating procedures for disaster management which is available in both English and Tetum.

- District disaster management centres have been established in Lautem and Bobonaro.
- IOM and UNDP were asked how they identified programme areas for their projects. IOM explained that its project is largely implemented through NGOs which already had well established programming areas. Because of scarce resources which inevitably restrict programme coverage, the decision was made to capitalize upon existing relationships built between NGOs and local communities rather than to target new communities in which there was no prior NGO presence. IOM conceded that national disaster risk management coverage is something that should be aimed for and added that a country-wide disaster risk assessment would be important to identify priority communities. This is something that UNDP will hopefully look at through their DRM project. It would also be useful to map existing DDRMCs to identify critical gaps in national disaster risk management coverage.
- The HCT noted that the clusters could be an effective tool to engage with line ministries on Disaster risk management.

4. Transitional shelter update (NRC)

- Families have moved out from Quarantina and from Tasitulu transitional shelters. Approximately 336 families currently remain in transitional shelters. Tasitulu shelter has only 5 families left residing in it. These are families that would like to negotiate their exit with the government.
- NRC continues to provide water and sanitation assistance in the shelters.
- A statement made by Secretary of State Jacinto Gomes de Deus has been misunderstood by some IDPs who understand that they will receive 1,500 USD if they get married.
- Becora market shelter has about 30 families which would like to move back to the districts. About 30 families require dialogue support before leaving the shelter. About 30 families are not satisfied with the options that have been offered by the government. These families would like to have assurance from the government that they will have a house upon leaving the shelters. Their preference is to have a new 'barrio' established for them to live in.
- 25 families are considered to be particularly vulnerable due to social and psychological issues they have suffered from the violence in 2006/7. These cases have been brought to the attention of MSS.
- NRC believes that there may still be some residual people living in transitional shelter even beyond the end of October when NRC support to transitional shelters will end.
- Clarification on behalf of MSS was provided by Nicholas Kroeger, IOM advisor to MSS:
- MSS considers the transitional shelter at Tasitolo closed. This previous shelter will now be used as an army barrack.
- A letter of clarification has been sent from Secretary of State Jacinto Gomes de Deus regarding the misperception that married couples will receive extra money.

**TIMOR-LESTE**

UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator

- MSS and IOM have trucks ready and available for IDP movement from the transitional shelters and will organize all of the movement to the districts. MSS is very optimistic about the closure of the transitional shelters in a timely manner.
- A request was made by NRC for increased dialogue for IDPs living in Becora market.
- IOM has confirmed that they would be able to take over NRC's duties for camp management should such duties still be required after their secession of activities at the end of October.

5. Cluster updates:**Nutrition cluster**

- The Nutrition cluster provided an update on the cluster's recent activities which included a series of workshops related to contingency planning for nutrition.
- The technical core of the nutrition cluster met in August for a workshop on contingency planning during which they carried out an analysis of current government policy related to nutrition, as applicable to emergency situations.
- The cluster also carried out preliminary capacity mapping, taking into account the government's ability to mobilize funds, chain of command, stocks, training etc.
- Discussions were held regarding what contingency planning model should be used and preliminary work was carried out on conducting a risk analysis.
- A workshop was held on September 15-16 to look at the results of the capacity mapping tool and to conduct a preliminary hazard and risk analysis for nutrition.
- Recommendations from the workshop included the adoption of WHO recommended nutrition thresholds which would allow for the implementation of WHO nutritional recommendations thereby streamlining nutritional standards in Timor-Leste with international standards.
- Data is a huge detriment in ascertaining what the current situation is with regards to nutrition in the country.
- The most recent district information is the 2007 standard living survey.
- The nutrition cluster has recommended that the Nutrition cluster formally merge with the food security cluster.
- The HCT agreed in principle that this is a good idea but suggested that this issue be discussed by the Food Security and Nutrition cluster leads before reverting back to the HCT for endorsement.

- **ACTION: Food Security and Nutrition cluster leads to meet to discuss potentially merging the two clusters and identifying cluster leads. The Humanitarian Unit would be happy to support this discussion.**

Recovery cluster

- The ToRs for the cluster have been agreed and endorsed
- An MoU has been drafted between the co-leads UNDP & CARE
- Three operational-level Working Groups have been identified and/or established in recovery areas; namely land and property dispute resolution working group, peace building working group (HHK) and a community infrastructure working group.

**TIMOR-LESTE**

UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator

- USD \$250,000 funds have been mobilised in support of Cluster and related activities
- Consultation has begun on defining Recovery Priorities
- A Contingency Planning / Emergency Preparedness Workshop Tentatively Planned for late Oct / Early Nov
- MSS has actively participated in the work begun by the cluster and wishes to use it as a forum for resource mobilisation and contingency planning. The Minister has requested that rather than using the term ‘Cluster’ which the government associates with international ownership that a clearly MSS-led ‘Social Recovery Working Group’ be established instead.

Please see Annex II for more detail.

6. Update on the Oxfam-led evaluation of the response to the 2006 crisis

- Colin Reynolds and Sabina Curatolo, the two independent consultants undertaking an evaluation of the response to the 2006 crisis gave a brief overview of some of their preliminary findings. Please see annex III for details.

• A workshop will be held on Monday 12 October from 9:00 – 12:00 at Oxfam, during which the preliminary report will be presented and discussed with HCT members.

7. Recovery cash grant review

- HCT members were reminded that the latest draft of the recovery cash grant assessment concept paper has been circulated to all HCT members to be finalized by the end of the week so that DSRSR Reske-Nielsen can present it to the Minister of MSS on Friday.

• ACTION: Comments / feedback on this concept paper to be submitted by Thursday 8 October to petra.demarin@undp.org.

AOB

- Update on the Recovery Framework document
 - The Recovery Advisor informed the HCT that the draft document will be shared with the recovery cluster for further comment and refinement before being submitted to the HCT for approval and endorsement.
- **Next HCT meeting to be held on Wednesday 4 November, 14:00-15:30 in Conference room A**

Please visit “The Cluster System in Timor-Leste website” for more information on

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*Recovery and Contingency Planning activities by the Clusters.
(<http://sites.google.com/site/clusterstimorleste>).*

Timor-Leste Humanitarian Country Team (HCT)

Meeting Attendance Sheet - Total Participants: 23

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