

**TIMOR-LESTE**

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**UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator****Timor-Leste Humanitarian Country Team (HCT)**

Tuesday, 9 June 2009, 1030-1200  
UNMIT Conference Room D

**SUMMARY****1. Introduction and adoption of the agenda**

- Agenda adopted

**2. Political Update**

Briefing by Colin Stewart, UNMIT Political Affairs

- The suco elections law was passed exactly the way that the government drafted it. FRETILIN is not happy with the law but they can't do anything until the law is promulgated and then they can appeal it. The President can request a preparatory review by the courts and it looks like the law will be taken to court before it is implemented thereby possibly pushing back the timing of the suco elections.
- It looks like the elections will take place in September at the earliest and probably more likely in October 2009.
- UNMIT is promoting open lists for the ballots but that was not accepted. FRETILIN is challenging the law regarding participation of political parties and PSD is taking the lead in rejecting the proposal of open lists.
- Last week in Baucau the court passed judgment on the arson cases which took place in Watulari district in August 2006. Five people accused of arson were taken to court. Three were sentenced to three years in jail and two were acquitted. The prosecution may be planning to appeal the acquittals. All five persons accused of arson remain free on bail.
- There remain many outstanding cases of arson in Timor-Leste. Furthermore according to the national criminal law it is very difficult to incarcerate someone in pre-trial detention.
- Finally there was an incident involving Martial Arts Group fighting in Maliana over the weekend. Some issues arose regarding the involvement of the F-FDTL in the incident. This is currently being looked into.

**3. Update on pending IDP issues**

Presentation by Sophia Carson, UNDP (see annex I for more details)

- The president went to Metinaro camp on the 10<sup>th</sup> of June to meet with representatives from the camp. On the 12<sup>th</sup> of June the Minister and Vice-Prime Minister held a meeting in Camea. This is the 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> dialogue held in that suco so far.
- Priority for the compensation package will be given to people living inside of the camp which is approximately 612 families. MSS has accepted three more lists – socialization for those lists plus verification and re-justification has to take place for those additional families.
- There will be an operational meeting held at MSS in order to finalize the last arrangement for the movement. All heads of agency were requested to provide staff assistance to the process, in the form of return monitors. The operational meeting will be either on June 10<sup>th</sup> or 11<sup>th</sup>.
- IOM indicated that their security officer will brief ISF and UNPol on the security matters regarding the return. The DSRG/RC/HC clarified that the security arrangements need to be




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coordinated by the Government, and that the operational security plan needs to be prepared by UNPol, jointly with PNTL, as soon as possible, following the operational meeting.

- The capacity of the transitional shelter sites is limited, including capacity to absorb families who may be rejected by the communities of return.
- Current capacity at Tasi Tulu transitional site is approx. 50 rooms. This is the only transitional site, of the four existing, with available rooms. (The government is planning to close down Quarantina transitional site at the end of June 2009).
- About 200 families have been identified as being potentially problematic in terms of their return.
- Negotiations are taking place at a very local level, within the aldeas in the succo. The President highlighted that there was not a sustainable solution to return approx. 200 families. It's better to be cautious than to try to return the IDPs without a solution for those 200 families.
- 20 trucks are being made available for movement from the camp. Two families per day per truck with a maximum of 40 families per day will be moved. This will be a slower move than the previous returns.
- The DSRSG/RC/HC briefed on discussions between the SRSG and the Prime Minister regarding the second installment of payments to IDPs. The Prime Minister's thinking is as follows: 1) He wants to solve Metinaro – no payment until the Metinaro problem has been resolved 2) If there is to be another payment other than to those who have already been paid, the next priority should be those people who had their businesses destroyed during the crisis in 2006. Claims would only be considered upon presentation of convincing evidence of loss 3) Consideration of payment would be given to those IDPs who have not claimed anything to date. (ie. those groups that went to stay with families rather than in IDP camps) 4) Only following that would there be any consideration of additional payments.

**4. Early Recovery – proposed way forward**

Proposal by Petra Demarin, Office of the DSRSG/RC/HC

- Postponement of the workshop with the government to review progress to date on the National Recovery Strategy.
- Proposal to develop a recovery framework based on existing assessments of the current recovery situation. The framework will map ongoing recovery activities and help to identify remaining gaps. This document will facilitate further engagement with the government and will facilitate the development of recovery action plans to form part of cluster workplans.
- Discussions regarding the methodology, timeframe and identification of a working group for the development of the framework will be discussed in the ICCG on Wednesday June 17<sup>th</sup> and will report back to the HCT on June 29<sup>th</sup>.
- No objections were raised in the HCT to this proposed way forward. The HCT will be briefed back on progress at their next meeting.

**5. Community Infrastructure Projects (IOM/UNDP)**

Presentation by Luis Esteves, IOM and Ayako Higuchi, UNDP

- IOM community infrastructure component is part of the project *Enhancing Stabilisation through Sustainable Reintegration of IDPs*, funded by European Commission Stability Instrument - ECSI.

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- IOM has already shortlisted 7 possible sucos where they will build community infrastructures; Camea, Hera, Becora, Fatuhada, Comoro and Bairo Pité and possibly Bidau Santana.
- In Camea and Hera, they have already socialized the project with Suco Councils, and their staff is now working in these communities to identify possible projects
- The second part of the infrastructure component is the production of a small booklet/manual, to explain to illiterate people good practices for building their houses.

For a more detailed update on the project please refer to the attached project update document

- UNDP briefed on their community infrastructure project which is a part of the SERC project. The project has been delayed due to delays in the recruitment of a project manager however that person should be on board the week of June 15<sup>th</sup>. Discussions will start as soon as possible with MSS to identify target sucos. UNDP will be using a participatory approach to identify the needs of communities.

**6. NGOs statement to the TLDPM (Plan International)**

Briefing by Penny Jones, Plan International (Please see attached media release)

- NGO statement to the TLDPM was presented by the head of FONGTIL and highlighted some of the major development challenges facing Timor.
- The NGOs would like to specifically raise awareness concerning the issue of impunity. Reference is made to the Walter Kalin's report. He had three specific points that linked the sustainability of IDP return to justice. The NGOs have drafted an initial position paper in line with the Walter Kalin report. An invitation has been extended to UN agencies to join a small group of interested organisations to work on this position paper in order to develop a joint advocacy paper for the HCT to lobby vis a vis the government.
- The DSRSG/HC/RC pointed out that this is a very politically sensitive area and suggested that representatives from political affairs and public information sections of UNMIT be included in the working group. HRTJS also manifested interest to participate.

**7. AOB**

- CICR to be admitted as a member of the HCT. Formal report in writing will be submitted to the HCT for their approval at the next meeting.
- Helicopter support for NGOs. – A number of requests have been rejected in the past days. The DSRSG/RC/HC indicated that all requests for flight to Oeccusi will be approved (this has been decided by the chief of mission support), contingent on a space available basis. The flights are quite heavily booked on Mondays and Fridays.
- Land and Property – NRC suggested that Haburas, a local NGO that is working on housing rights, will be contacted to give a presentation at the next HCT to help the group come up with an advocacy strategy for the land and property.
- ARCOM – Office of Telecommunications - Under the ministry of infrastructure have been requested to cut VSAT connections to 15 entities (INGOs). This is a discussion that is broader than just the VSAT.

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- NGOs also raised the issue of lack of clarity from the part of the Government regarding the registration procedures. UNMIT can raise with the Government if detailed information is provided to the DSRSG's office. Issues include the standing of INGOs in Timor-Leste in general and their regularization.
- WFP, on behalf of the telecommunications cluster, agreed to look into this issue and to report back at the next meeting.
- Next meeting to be held on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> of June

- END -

# Timor-Leste Humanitarian Country Team (HCT)

Meeting Attendance Sheet - Total Participants: 30

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