

**TIMOR-LESTE**

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

Monday, 14 September 2009, 1000-1130
UNMIT Conference Room D

SUMMARY

- 1. Introduction and adoption of the agenda and matters from the previous meeting (DRSG/RC/HC)**
 - Agenda adopted, minutes were shared and no comment received.
- 2. Political briefing (UNMIT Political Affairs)**
 - Marternus Bere, a former pro-Indonesian militia leader indicted in 2003 by the UN Serious Crimes Unit for committing crimes against humanity in 1999, was arrested and later released by the government on August 30th. The Court of Appeal stated that the release was illegal because it was not organized by a judge, which could include imprisonment of 2-6 years. The Secretary General and the UNHCHR have issued statements stressing that there cannot be impunity for crimes against humanity.
 - Candidacy registrations for the suco elections are underway. An average of 2.6 lists was registered in each suco. In the eastern part of the country, pro-Fretilin sucos have the least number of lists. There is some confusion over the registration process because of its complexity. Also, there have been complaints about limited voter education and time to provide lists. Overall there are no major concerns or security issues. STAE will provide the final lists by September 9. Ballots will be printed from 10-30 September.
- 3. Update on Metinaro (IOM)**
 - Movement of Metinaro IDP camp took place from 17 June to 22 August. 1476 families were moved out of the camp. 3 families remain and some FFDTL families have asked MSS to stay. The Camp Manager has left the site. 1 latrine was left for the FFDTL families. IOM and MSS teams are providing ongoing mediation with remaining 3 families.
 - DSRSG/RC/HC Reske-Nielsen congratulated IOM, UNDP, and NGO partners for this milestone in closing the IDP tented camps and supporting the movements.
- 4. Transitional shelter update (IOM/NRC)**
 - Transitional shelters (TS) are being closed down and a letter was distributed by MSS regarding the closure dates of each TS. IDPs registered at the TS can receive USD1500 from MSS, however, non-registered IDPs (i.e. students, etc.) will not be provided with compensation. There has been differing reactions to this as some IDPs approve, while others disapprove, of MSS's strategy for decommissioning the TS.
 - 420 IDP families are still living in TS. Of these, 45 families are waiting for dialogue and verification by MSS. Families from Quarantina TS are moving voluntarily with the support of IOM, UNDP dialogue teams and NRC. Some families are refusing movement and negotiations are underway with MSS.
 - NRC is phasing out their camp management activities of TS by the end of September. The Government has requested that NRC continues to assist and has indicated that they will provide salaries to national staff until the end of October; however this has

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not been confirmed. Due to lack of funding, there may be no international staff to assist after September.

- The Camp Coordinator of Quarantina TS had to move on September 11th because of threats by IDPs. There has been some conflict in other areas and this should be monitored carefully.
- IOM indicated that, if requested, they would be able to provide information about the areas of return, so that agencies implementing programmes can better target their activities in those areas.

The group discussed the extent to which NRC is collaborating with other NGOs on TS coordination and UNDP offered to assist in the dialogue facilitation.

There were concerns about dates proposed by MSS for the TS closure, particularly in terms of finding solutions for those who can't leave the TS and this point.

Action(s): • HC to raise the TS closure timeline with the Government.
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5. Cluster updates:

- UNDP provided an update on the Recovery Cluster on behalf of the two co-leads (UNDP/CARE). On September 10th, a meeting was held and led by MSS to address remaining recovery issues and efforts, as well as to formalize the cluster and identify key actors involved, priority areas, and next steps. The Secretary of State for Social Assistance indicated that phase 2 of the recovery package will provide compensation to cover materials and assets for non-camp based IDPs. The Government will require the help from the UN, NGOs and INGOs to implement phase 2. The Referendum Fund in the State Budget, reallocated from the heavy oil project, will partially focus on recovery activities. These activities can include land and property concerns, coordination between government departments related to peace building, social cohesion and conflict resolution, and livelihood programmes. Current funding for peace building/social reintegration is limited, which affects the foundation for long-term development planning. It was suggested to begin surveying recovery stakeholders on priority areas, what efforts are needed and how to involve the government. An MOU between UNDP and CARE on co-leading the Recovery Cluster is in its 2nd draft for approval by both parties.

On the issue of mapping (functional and spatial) of recovery activities which is still pending, the cluster co-lead indicated that the members are currently agreeing on the recovery areas to be covered, before proceeding to a mapping exercise. Very broadly, the cluster will cover dialogue activities, land and property disputes, and community infrastructure. CICR reminded the group that BELUN is capturing project data from all stakeholders by using a streamlined form. However, this covers beyond recovery activities

- WHO gave a presentation on the Health Cluster's workshop on emergency preparedness and response.

6. Food Security Situation (WFP)

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- WFP provided the briefing and indicated that there are two groups currently working on food security: the National Priority 1 Working Group (NP1) assisting in the food security monitoring system, and the Food Security Cluster. FAO and the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) conducted a crop survey and it was found that crop (rice and corn) production has increased from last year. However production is lacking in some districts due to wind damage. Survey results are still pending – an inter-ministerial group will assess the results and the food security situation in late October. The group cautioned that sufficient food production itself does not address the issue of access to food.
- Overall, the country is better prepared to respond to food security than last year. Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) have been developed and tested. District Disaster Management Committees will be trained on SOPs in late September to respond to food security-related disasters. The Food Security Cluster is developing its contingency plan based on the WFP global contingency planning guidelines.

Fabrizio Cesaretti (FAO) added that MAFF did not require additional seeds this year because of improved seed stock. However, he was concerned about the government's lack of focus on routine measures. Regarding pest control, FAO has finished spraying in Bobonaro and Covalima. Suco farmers in Bobonaro attacked MAFF staff because they blamed the spraying on crop losses. Socialization of regular spraying needs to be improved, which includes better information campaigns. Also, MAFF needs to use NP1 and the Food Security Cluster to improve their preparedness.

An issue was raised regarding overall stocks and storage capacity to prepare for possible crop losses. FAO indicated that 5000 silos have been produced to store mainly maize. WFP noted that they have stocks for 6 months should there be low production, however the government needs to provide leadership in identifying areas lacking food. FAO also noted that the government needs to work more closely with NP1 and the Food Security Cluster to address informal reports of price increases and problems with rice distribution to districts from Dili.

7. Update on recovery cash grant assessment (NRC/UNDP)

- The recovery and shelter clusters have taken part in preliminary discussions on the proposed assessment, aiming to gather information on the use of the recovery cash grant. It must be noted that the assessment will not be an audit of government and its cash grant distribution, nor of the IDPs use of monies received. The assessment should serve to understand how the Hamutuk Hari'i Uma component of the NRS, namely the cash grants, impacted on durable solutions. The group reaffirmed that the assessment would serve to inform future government policy on humanitarian response and recovery, highlight future points of conflict/tension, and serve as a lessons learnt.

Action(s):

- Humanitarian Country Team approval of a more detailed concept note, including timeline, implementing agency/funding, and a short description of the elements of the assessment.
- Once there is agreement from the HCT, seek endorsement of the MSS to proceed.

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- Virginia Dawson (Oxfam) informed that the evaluation team arrived in Dili. The team will spend 4-5 weeks in-country to gather information and conduct interviews to evaluate the response to the 2006 crisis.
- Alissar Chaker (UNDP) indicated that a tool is being developed by the Disaster Operation Centre (DOC) and the District Disaster Management Committees (DDMC) to track disasters and impacts (human and infrastructure). The tool is called “Disaster Risk Management (DRM) INFO”, which is based on DevINFO. SOPs are being developed and a national simulation on disaster response will be conducted on September 15th to refine SOPs and guidelines. It was noted natural disasters involves everyone and that all cluster leads have been invited to represent the international community.
- Clare Danby (Concern) briefed that the Ministry of Economy and Development is developing a “Rural Development Plan”. An inter-ministerial group will be formed to feed into this rural development plan, as well as INGOs.

*Please visit “The Cluster System in Timor-Leste website” for more information on Recovery and Contingency Planning activities by the Clusters.
(<http://sites.google.com/site/clusterstimorleste>).*

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