

# UNICEF HUMANITARIAN ACTION

## TIMOR LESTE

# DONOR UPDATE

21 MARCH 2007

**UNICEF NEEDS \$1,534,080 TO ADDRESS THE NEEDS OF CHILDREN IN THE AREAS OF HEALTH, WATER AND SANITATION, EDUCATION & PROTECTION**

- 2007 Consolidated Appeal less than 35 per cent funded
- Water and sanitation provision for 100,000 IDPs is delayed
- Protection of children, especially in IDP camps, is jeopardised



## 1. ISSUES FOR CHILDREN

The ongoing civil unrest in the lead-up to the presidential elections scheduled for 9 April 2007 and parliamentary elections in May 2007 – and the extremely volatile security situation in Timor-Leste have gravely affected the well-being and livelihoods of children and women throughout the country. The unrest and gang-related violence which first surfaced in April 2006, led to the displacement of 178,000 people as well as the burning and looting of houses and public buildings including schools. By the end of February 2007, there were still approximately 100,000 Internally Displaced People (IDPs),- 30,000 in the capital and some 70,000 in the districts.

More than 40 per cent of the population in Timor-Leste live below the poverty line. The combined effects of poor environmental sanitation, frequent and severe infectious diseases, persistent malnutrition and parasites have led to an under-five mortality of 136 deaths per 1,000 live births. More than one in ten children is acutely malnourished and almost one in two suffers from chronic malnutrition. The 2006 WFP Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Analysis showed 56 per cent of children under five to be under weight.

A significant number of the population is internally displaced and the resulting breakdown of social structures and services has seriously challenged the capacity of families, communities and the State to protect children. In addition to continued low-intensity conflict in Dili, natural disasters are common, especially floods and landslides during the rainy season. Due to poor drainage in highly congested camps, IDPs are at high risk of diarrhoea-related diseases.

A few schools remain closed in Dili due to the prevailing insecurity and in many places where schools are open, teachers do not report to work due to security concerns. Vandalism and looting have left most of the schools in the capital Dili without sufficient furniture, equipment and resources. Lack of water and sanitation is another problem mentioned by nearly all schools in Dili.

In addition to these challenges, Timor-Leste is prone to natural disasters, especially floods and landslides during the rainy season, which starts around November every year. This year, the delayed rainy season yielded in low rainfall in some areas of the country resulting in pockets of droughts, which will exacerbate the food insecurity throughout the country.

Humanitarian assistance to IDPs, including children and women will have to continue until the end of the year. The transition from humanitarian assistance for IDPs to development activities for returnees will therefore not be as rapid as planned.

To date, UNICEF has received less than 35 per cent of its CAP funding requirements. In order to fulfil our commitments to children and women in urgent need of assistance, it is imperative that the projects specified under the CAP receive immediate funding. UNICEF still requires \$1,534,080 to address needs of children and women in the areas of health, water and sanitation, education & protection.

## 2. UNICEF RESPONSE: ACTIVITIES, ACHIEVEMENTS AND CONSTRAINTS

In close collaboration with local, national and international partners, UNICEF has continued to respond to the humanitarian needs of the Timorese population affected by the crisis. It has mainly focused on the priority areas of health, nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene, education, child protection and HIV/AIDS. However, these interventions were hindered due to the ongoing civil unrest and the subsequent insecurity and lack of access to some parts of the country.

### **Health and Nutrition**

To date, with the generous contribution from donors in response to the Emergency Flash Appeal launched on 22 June 2006, UNICEF was able to ensure that 60,000 children were vaccinated against measles and provided Vitamin A to 25,000 children. In addition, 5,000

pregnant women received tetanus toxoid vaccination and iron supplements. Vitamin A supplements were also provided to 5,000 post-partum women. Moderately malnourished children were identified for supplementary feeding and those who were severely malnourished received therapeutic milk. Internally displaced women benefited from advocacy campaigns on breastfeeding and timely complementary feeding.

#### **Water, Sanitation and Hygiene**

UNICEF provided water trucking, supported the building and improving of water systems, latrines, bathrooms and drainage systems in 16 IDP camps in Dili. UNICEF ensured that 70,000 IDPs including their children had proper access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitary facilities are available to them. This also helped prevent major outbreak of water-borne diseases. UNICEF led the Water and Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Working Group and helped provide weekly collection of garbage and cleaning of septic tanks to all IDP camps. UNICEF implemented health promotion activities in all camps in Dili and distributed 7,000 hygiene kits outside of Dili, mostly in Lautem, Manatuto, Manufahi and Tibar.

#### **Education**

UNICEF and partners monitored 60 schools and supported the learning needs of 28,557 students in Dili. Forty-four school-in-a-box kits were distributed to 18 schools to assist schooling activities and are being used by nearly 7,000 students. A Back to School Campaign was launched to encourage children to return and remain in schools, with media and other promotional activities in six of the most affected districts. As part of the campaign, over 190,000 primary school students in the 13 districts throughout Timor-Leste received back packs of learning materials and more than 4,000 primary school teachers received teacher bags with stationary and teaching implements.

#### **Child Protection**

UNICEF provided assistance to the inter-agency Child Protection Working Group and developed materials for the Child Protection Focal Points and the Support teams that worked with them, both in communities and IDP camps. This led to better access to information on child safety and protection issues and stronger camp and community-based child protection activities. Psycho-social and conflict-resolution interventions were implemented in IDP camps and communities to foster constructive social connections and interactions. These have helped bring a sense of normalcy in the daily lives of children. These structured recreational and psychosocial interventions were implemented in 58 camps and communities and have benefited 37,000 children up to 13 years of age affected by the crisis.

#### **HIV/AIDS**

Significant results for increasing awareness and understanding of HIV/AIDS were achieved through life-skills based education training and Peer education activities. Between June and December 2006, 328 people were trained as peer educators who in turn were able educate 12,831 young people on HIV/AIDS. HIV prevention information was disseminated through workshops in three additional districts namely Aileu, Manufahi and Ainaro; and 900 young people received basic information on HIV/AIDS.

### **3. APPEAL REQUIREMENTS AND RECEIPTS**

As part of the joint Consolidated Appeal (CAP) launched on 18 January 2007, UNICEF still needs US\$ 1,534,080 to be able to respond to the needs of children and women in Timor-Leste. The response from the donor community has been limited thus far, with only US\$ 186,920 received to date<sup>1</sup>.

---

<sup>1</sup> An additional US \$352,982 of thematic funds have been committed by SIDA.

Table 1: Funds Received against Appeal

Appeal Sector	Requirements by Sector	Funds Received *(US\$)	Unmet requirements (US\$)	% Unfunded
Water and Environmental Sanitation	770,000	200,000	570,000	74%
Health and Nutrition	350,000	0	350,000	100%
Protection	436,000	0	436,000	100%
Education	165,000	0	165,000	100%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,721,000</b>	<b>200,000</b>	<b>1,521,080</b>	<b>88.4%</b>

\* An additional US \$352,982 of thematic funds has been committed by SIDA.

Table 2: Funds received by Donor

Donor	PBA no.	Funds Received (US\$)	Sector
Government of the Republic of Korea	SM/07/0046	200,000	Water and Sanitation
<b>Total</b>		<b>200,000</b>	

\* Once the additional US \$352,982 of thematic funds committed by SIDA become available, UNICEF will allocate US\$ 200,000 to WES and US\$ 150,000 to Health and Nutrition.

#### 4. IMPACT OF UNDER-FUNDING AND CURRENT PRIORITIES

The vast majority of UNICEF's financial requirements for the humanitarian response are unmet. At the moment, key projects are on hold and remain unimplemented due to the shortage of funds. Should additional contributions fail to materialize soon, UNICEF may be forced to revise the size and scope of its planned activities.

##### Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

The recent security concerns have impacted in particular water trucking to IDP camps, the cleaning of septic tanks and garbage collection. Funding shortages affected the work of several implementing partners in the WASH area. Although UNICEF is grateful for the recent generous contribution of the Government of Korea for WASH activities specified under the CAP, the overall funding remains very low. A process of prioritization of works is underway to ensure that the most urgent WES needs are met in IDP camps while considering the limited funding available to the sector.

##### Health and Nutrition

The identification and referral mechanism for malnourished children in Timor-Leste needs substantial improvement. In order to do so, UNICEF had planned to strengthen the nutrition surveillance system in six of the most vulnerable districts. Thus far, the project remains unimplemented because of lack of funding.

##### Education

UNICEF had intended to build the capacity of government officials, school principals and teachers to enable them to better prepare and respond to education needs in emergencies. Unfortunately, this project is held up by the lack of funding yet again. In another misfortune, on 3 March 2007 the warehouse of the Ministry of Education and Culture was burnt to the ground and thousands of books and other school materials have been destroyed. Four hundred kits of curriculum material developed for class one with UNICEF technical and financial support has also been destroyed.

## Protection

It is essential to build a protective environment for children especially during crises where they are rendered more vulnerable. One way is ensuring that UNICEF in Timor-Leste is setting up Child Friendly Spaces both in IDP camps and in communities. Another way is to establish a coherent referral mechanism that will strengthen the response system for child abuse. Both projects will require financial support and to date, none have received funding. It is now difficult to maintain and establish new Child Friendly Spaces in IDP camps and the protection of children will hence be jeopardised.

UNICEF expresses its gratitude to the Government of the Republic of Korea and SIDA who have thus far contributed to its emergency interventions and hopes that other donors will soon extend their support as well. The timely provision of resources will allow UNICEF to avoid any critical disruption in the provision of essential services and supplies across its five sectors of intervention, as well as to launch new important projects.

Table 3: Urgent priority requirements

<b>Table 3: URGENT PRIORITY REQUIREMENTS AS OF MARCH 2007</b>		
<b>Project</b>	<b>Beneficiaries/coverage</b>	<b>Amount Required (US\$)</b>
1. Provision of water and sanitation in IDP camps and communities	100,000 people	583,080
2. Health and Nutrition	Children under five in six of the most vulnerable districts	350,000
3. Child Protection	20,000 children and 10,000 women	436,000
4. Education	30,000 children	165,000
<b>Total Priority needs</b>		<b>1,534,080</b>

Details of the Timor-Leste emergency programme can be obtained from:

**Shui-Meng Ng**  
UNICEF Representative  
Dili  
Tel: + 670 3 313 212  
Email: [sng@unicef.org](mailto:sng@unicef.org)

**Esther Vigneau**  
UNICEF EMOPS  
Geneva  
Tel: + 41 22 909 5612  
Fax: + 41 22 909 5902  
Email: [evigneau@unicef.org](mailto:evigneau@unicef.org)

**Gary Stahl**  
UNICEF PFO  
New York  
Tel: + 1-212 326 7009  
Fax: + 1-212 326 7165  
Email : [gstahl@unicef.org](mailto:gstahl@unicef.org)