

UNICEF HUMANITARIAN ACTION TIMOR-LESTE IN 2009



Core Country Data	
Child population (Census 2004 projection)	573,690
U5 mortality rate (Census 2004)	130
Infant mortality rate (Census 2004)	90
Maternal mortality ratio, 1980–1999 (Ministry of Health 2000)	660
Primary school enrolment ratio, 2000–2007, net, male/female (Health Management Information System (HMIS) 2007)	75/73
% U1 fully immunized (DPT3) (HMIS 2007)	70
% population using improved drinking-water sources (Timor-Leste Survey of Living Standards 2007)	63
% U5 suffering moderate and severe underweight (Timor-Leste Survey of Living Standards 2007)	49

The children of Timor-Leste are still suffering the consequences of the violence generated by the political and civil unrest in 2006. Although the number of camps hosting internally displaced persons is decreasing, the overall situation remains fragile. Civil unrest and natural disasters are among the recurrent challenges. Child malnutrition is among the highest in the region with signs of deterioration. The 2007 Timor-Leste Survey of Living Standards reveals that 49 per cent of all children under age five are underweight, 54 per cent are stunted and 25 per cent are wasted. Children are at particular risk of violence, abuse and exploitation in the prevailing environment marked by poverty, conflict and displacement. Socio-economic factors constrain the protective capacities of parents and communities.

Summary of UNICEF Emergency Needs for 2009*	
Sector	US\$
Health and Nutrition	1,100,000
Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	1,500,000
Education	300,000
Child Protection	300,000
Adolescents and Youth Participation	300,000
Advocacy and Communication	200,000
Emergency Coordination, Monitoring and Evaluation	250,000
Total**	3,950,000

* Funds received against this appeal will be used to respond to both the immediate and medium-term needs of children and women as outlined above. If UNICEF should receive funds in excess of the medium-term funding requirements for this emergency, UNICEF will use those funds to support other underfunded emergencies.

** The total includes a maximum recovery rate of 7 per cent. The actual recovery rate on contributions will be calculated in accordance with UNICEF Executive Board Decision 2006/7 dated 9 June 2006.

1. CRITICAL ISSUES FOR CHILDREN AND WOMEN

With half of its population under age 18 Timor-Leste still faces multiple challenges. Humanitarian needs have been of concern since the crisis of April/May 2006 that led to the destruction and damage of 6,000 homes, followed by the displacement of over 100,000 persons. Additional unrest caused violence and displacement following the formation of the new Government in August 2007. In 2008, the number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) living in camps is decreasing as 50 per cent of the estimated 100,000 IDPs have received return and reintegration packages from the Government. Despite this recent positive development, the overall situation remains fragile. Civil unrest and natural disasters, such as floods, drought, severe storms and landslides, are among the major recurrent challenges. Hazards increasingly impact the districts by gradually eroding the coping mechanisms of the population. There is heavy subsistence pressure on natural resources, and the annual deforestation rate (1.2 per cent) is among the highest in the region and over twice the average for low-income countries as a whole.

Timor-Leste has high rates of under-five mortality (130 per 1,000 live births), infant mortality (90 deaths per 1,000 live births), neonatal mortality (55 per 1,000 live births) and maternal mortality (660 per 100,000 live births). Poor dietary practices, limited availability and gender-based differences in the distribution of food contribute to high incidence of anaemia among females in Timor-Leste. Antenatal and postnatal care for women giving birth is not widespread and most babies are delivered at home. Access to health professionals and facilities is difficult due to distances; and the quality of available essential services and referral systems for emergencies remains poor.

The nutritional situation of children is alarming. High rates of child and maternal malnutrition indicate less than optimal physical and intellectual growth among children. Child malnutrition in Timor-Leste is amongst the highest in the region with signs of deterioration. Data show that the situation has worsened: the prevalence of underweight has increased from 46 per cent in 2003 to 49 per cent in 2007; stunting has grown from 49 per cent to 54 per cent; and wasting among children from 12 per cent to 25 per cent. Only 31 per cent of children are exclusively breastfed. Low levels of nutritional knowledge and many misconceptions and food taboos inhibit the effective utilization of foods. As Timor-Leste is a net food importer, the global high consumer food prices and their impact on the country are of concern. This trend is feared to exacerbate the already precarious nutritional status of many women and children. Food prices increased by 13 per cent in 2007 and the trend continued in 2008. In the absence of formal social safety nets and in order to hold down consumer prices, the Government has been importing rice for resale to local retailers.

Population's access to safe water sources (63 per cent) and improved sanitation (49 per cent) is low, with high urban-rural disparities. The National Directorate of Water and Sanitation Services (DNSAS) and the Ministry of Health have limited resources to respond to the needs of vulnerable populations and communities affected by natural disasters. Natural disasters limit children's access to education in disaster-prone rural areas. A data system on affected schools, which is currently being developed, will collect and disseminate information and strengthen preparedness and response mechanisms.

Children are greatly at risk of violence, exploitation and abuse. Protective response mechanisms are very weak. The number of social workers is extremely low (two nationwide) and few professionals are equipped with the knowledge and skills to address child abuse cases. Domestic violence, including gender-based violence, is the second most reported crime. Physical punishment of children is a common cultural practice for disciplining children at home and in schools. Children work to support the household subsistence economy by performing domestic chores or working outside the home.

2. KEY ACTIONS AND ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2008

In close collaboration with the Ministries of Health (MoH), Education (MoE), Social Solidarity (MSS), Justice (MoJ) and the National Directorate of Water and Sanitation Services (DNSAS) as well as international partners, including the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the UN Development Programme (UNDP), the UN Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT), the World Food Programme (WFP), the World Health Organization (WHO), CARE, Catholic Relief Services (CRS), Concern, Christian Children's Fund (CCF), Oxfam, Plan International, and the International Organization for Migration (IOM), UNICEF continued to respond to the humanitarian needs of women and children through its regular programme and through its emergency response to localized disasters. UNICEF, Concern and MoH piloted a community-based management of acute malnutrition (CMAM) programme in one district and are now planning to roll out in five districts. UNICEF and partners monitored national trends of global and severe acute malnutrition (GAM and SAM) through monthly growth monitoring. UNICEF procured contingency stocks of ready-to-use therapeutic food (F75 and F100) for the treatment of severely malnourished children, while promoting breastfeeding in communities/IDP camps through mother support group activities.

The provision of water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) helped avert disease outbreaks in camps. While UNICEF was committed to addressing the residual humanitarian needs, returnee children and families continued to be targeted through the regular programme. UNICEF is enhancing the capacity of WASH staff of both the Government and international partners in emergency preparedness and response. To this end, the Country Office supported the participation of two partners, including one government official, in a training of trainers on WASH in emergencies. UNICEF conducted a WASH capacity mapping exercise and a contingency planning exercise with partners in October and November 2008. In support of the return and reintegration of IDPs and prior to camp closures, UNICEF in collaboration with WASH partners disseminated information on procedures for new water system connections, and best practices on the use of water supply and sanitation facilities at family and community levels.

UNICEF continued to support the Ministry of Education (MoE) by enhancing its capacity to provide emergency education through the development of emergency preparedness and response plans at all levels. Key MoE staff participated in a regional capacity-building workshop in April 2008. UNICEF provided a technical expert to help develop MoE logistical capacity for material distribution, warehousing and supply management at national, regional and district levels. School backpacks were supplied to new first-grade students in priority districts. UNICEF in collaboration with MoE organized a workshop on Minimum Standards for Education in Emergencies that was held in Dili, in October 2008. National-, regional- and district-level MoE staff participated in the workshop in addition to key NGO partners. The aim was to familiarize MoE staff and NGO partners with the Minimum Standards and to introduce the education cluster approach.

UNICEF continued to work with the National Police (PNTL) to establish child-friendly police stations across the country, including in areas of return, relocation and displacement. As of October 2008, six child-friendly stations, reaching about 100 child abuse cases per month, were established in Timor-Leste. This initiative spearheaded by UNICEF and the national Vulnerable Persons Unit (VPU) equips police stations in all districts with police officers trained on Rules of Procedure for Child Abuse and Children at Risk. UNICEF and the Ministry of Social Solidarity (MSS) worked together to train newly appointed MSS child protection officers, community leaders, social animators, and Child Protection Networks' institutional focal points (education, health etc.) on child protection; case management; reporting of violence, exploitation and abuse; as well as how to conduct community outreach on child protection. UNICEF also worked with the emergency Child Protection Working Group and MSS to expand social welfare services to crisis-affected and other vulnerable children. The Ministry of Justice with the support of UNICEF developed a new draft juvenile justice legislation to ensure a protective legislative framework for children in contact with the law.

A total of 5,450 youths in and out of school in all 13 districts received training in life skills-based education and 40 adolescents benefited from basic literacy classes in two IDP camps. Thirty-five HIV/AIDS peer educators from seven national NGOs received peer educator training and provided peer-to-peer education sessions for 4,800 youths in and out of school in all 13 districts. Radio and television programmes were produced with the participation of youth, including displaced children, in partnership with children's editorial teams. Key preparedness messages developed prior to the start of the rainy season were disseminated countrywide. District-based communication and information centres for adolescents were established in two districts.

3. PLANNED HUMANITARIAN ACTION FOR 2009

Coordination and Partnership

The Humanitarian Coordination Committee, a local adaptation of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC), chaired by the Humanitarian Coordinator/Regional Coordinator/Deputy Special Representative of Secretary-General (HC/RC/DSRSG), is the current international humanitarian coordination mechanism. Sectoral working groups chaired by the Government and supported by international partners coordinate the residual humanitarian assistance, while the international community continues to support the government's National Recovery Strategy and the National Priorities. Discussions are currently underway to roll out a 'standby' cluster system in the country.

Linkages of HAR with the Regular Programme

In 2009, UNICEF Timor-Leste will begin its new Country Programme. Emergency preparedness and response continue to be an integral part of the Country Programme, which contributes to nation-building through the progressive realization of children's rights, and the achievement of the MDGs. The programme will encompass emergency preparedness and response, including disaster risk reduction strategies and preparation for cluster leadership, as key cross-cutting priorities for all programmes.

UNICEF will continue to meet residual humanitarian needs of the remaining IDPs which, as of November 2008, represent half of the estimated 100,000 displaced people; assist vulnerable women and children affected by natural disasters in the country, and provide ongoing support to the Government in addressing its national priorities. Key planned actions will incorporate transitional activities, while dealing with critical elements of a minimum level of emergency preparedness across all sectoral areas.

Health and Nutrition (US\$ 1,100,000)

For 2009, the overall goal is to continue supporting MoH with supplies and technical/logistical capacity to reach a total of 77,043 women of childbearing age and 60,823 children under age five in five target districts (Manatuto, Ermera, Aileu, Oecusse and Viqueque) to achieve full immunization and emergency obstetric care. MoH staff will be equipped to deliver inpatient therapeutic feeding countrywide. Community-based therapeutic feeding now piloted in one district will be rolled out in five. Community-based networks will be strengthened through the Family Health Promoter Programme to expand service coverage. Key activities will include:

- Procure sufficient vaccines, cold-chain and related equipment for 25 community health centres;
- Procure communications and logistics equipment for immunization outreach;
- Provide support for outreach activities and promotion of immunization;
- Procure communications and logistics equipment for emergency obstetric care;
- Train and provide supplies to 50 district health staff in immunization and therapeutic feeding;
- Support the training of midwives and health staff in emergency obstetric care;
- Continue supporting the implementation of the Family Health Promoters Programme to strengthen monitoring systems and community support structures;
- Implement the infant and young child feeding communication strategy throughout the country;
- Recruit national and international technical assistance to manage and implement the programme.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (US\$ 1,500,000)

For 2009, the overall goal is to integrate water supply, improved sanitation and hygiene into a comprehensive package addressing the needs of affected communities. Activities will be implemented by community-based organizations with the support of local NGOs and/or contractors. Interventions will include:

- Provide safe, clean and reliable water supply systems and support sanitation and hygiene promotion in at least 30 schools/communities in six districts, reaching 21,000 people (about 4,200 children);
- Facilitate the construction/rehabilitation of 3,000 household latrines (about 14,000 people) in districts;
- Help develop human resources and build capacity in the government water and sanitation sector and partner NGOs for emergency preparedness and response, through orientation/training;
- Develop promotional materials for improved sanitation and hygiene for schools and communities;
- Provide WASH support to approximately 20,000 disaster-affected people in three to five districts;
- Build up and maintain a minimum emergency stock of water storage tanks, water purification tablets, construction materials, water and hygiene kits and other emergency supplies for 15,000 people;
- Recruit national and international technical assistance to manage and implement the programme.

Education (US\$ 300,000)

Just like the previous year, in 2009 the emergency preparedness and response component of the education programme is fully funded under the Dutch Emergency Education grant. Education will continue to focus on building capacity and structures for emergency preparedness and response at national, regional and district levels of the MoE. This will include the development of a manual and a training programme tailored to the needs of Timor-Leste at national, regional and district levels as well as the preparation of response plans at all levels. In addition, UNICEF will support the development of emergency school kits, based on locally available resources or regionally easily accessible resources. The school kit will include teaching/learning materials as well as teacher's manuals to address specific needs in times of emergency, such as

stress management and conflict resolution. UNICEF will also continue to support school rehabilitation projects to strengthen the participation of parents and community in improved school quality.

Child Protection (US\$ 300,000)

For 2009, the overall goal is to reach at least 30,000 crisis-affected and other vulnerable children and their families through community- and district-based child and family welfare, as well as child-friendly police and justice interventions, so as to better ensure access to legal, psychosocial, health and social welfare support for all child victims of abuse, violence and exploitation. Key activities will include:

- Provide technical support and leadership to the Child Protection Working Group to coordinate child protection advocacy, policy and programme activities across the country;
- Support psychosocial activities (play, recreation and other activities) for at least 500 vulnerable children in priority districts to create child-friendly communities for children. Activities will be implemented in partnership with local and international NGOs and the local administration, with particular reference to the Directorate of Social Reinsertion. Already procured recreation kits will be distributed to all partners, including those in the Child Protection Working Group;
- Provide ongoing support to community-based Child Protection Networks at the district and *suco* (village) levels, to monitor and report child protection concerns and develop village advocacy campaigns to protect children from violence, exploitation and abuse;
- Work with the police to create child-friendly police stations in every district offering child-friendly law enforcement services for children in contact with the law (victims, offenders and witnesses) reaching at least 1,000 children every year;
- Provide technical assistance and human resources to Government, particularly the Ministry of Social Solidarity and the Ministry of Justice to implement new policies and procedures related to children's protection in emergencies (e.g., Guidelines on Separated and Unaccompanied Children).

Adolescents and Youth Participation (US\$ 300,000)

For 2009, the overall goal is to continue providing life skills-based education to 5,000 youths in and out of school in all 13 districts and HIV/AIDS awareness through peer education for 20,000 youth. Activities will include:

- Support HIV/AIDS prevention activities targeting 20,000 youths in and out of school;
- Provide training on life skills-based education for 5,000 youths in and out of school;
- Set up 65 literacy equivalency classes (25 students per class) and 260 basic literacy classes;
- Support sporting activities and youth-initiated community peace promotion and reconciliation initiatives reaching some 10,000 young people;
- Stockpile canopies for 30 learning spaces for emergency response.

Advocacy and Communication (US\$ 200,000)

Providing information and stimulating debate on youth issues is most effective if young people themselves can express their views and opinions (through national radio/TV and 17 community radio stations in all 13 districts). Key activities will include:

- Conduct focus group discussions with children and youth on the type of information they would want to access and media activities they would like to participate in;
- Develop, produce and disseminate key radio announcements and information materials on children and women's protection, health, education, early childhood care and development;
- Support local media to improve quality and balance of reporting, especially on the situation of internally displaced children and women;
- Work with district-based communication and information centres for adolescents to provide information;
- Conduct training for community radios for them to develop, produce and air programmes on health, education and protection;
- Provide civic education for children and young people in collaboration with faith-based organizations, including youth groups;

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- Prepare press releases/human interest stories for the UNICEF website and local/international media;
 - Maintain minimum stock of UNICEF advocacy supplies for emergency;
 - Provide technical and human resources to community radios, national radio and television and other communication partners for them to effectively advocate child rights and to effectively monitor activities.

Emergency Coordination, Monitoring and Education (US\$ 250,000)

- Discussions are underway to initiate the roll-out of standby clusters in Timor-Leste in 2009. This will entail increased work in UNICEF-led sectors to improve emergency preparedness among partners in the sectors and to better prepare humanitarian responses. An Emergency Specialist has been coordinating UNICEF's wide range of areas in emergency preparedness and response. In accordance with the implementation of the humanitarian reform, this function should carry on in 2009 to further enhance sectoral coordination under Government and inter-agency coordination structure. Additional funds will be required to carry on the position.
- Continue monitoring emergency responses in close collaboration with relevant ministries to track progress. A DevInfo emergency database will be created in 2009 to monitor the results of emergency responses.
- Evaluate UNICEF-supported emergency responses to gather lessons learnt and continue improving ongoing support to affected populations and enhancing emergency preparedness.