

For every child
Health, Education, Equality, Protection
ADVANCE HUMANITY



UNICEF HUMANITARIAN ACTION TIMOR-LESTE IN 2008



CORE COUNTRY DATA

Population under 18 (thousands)	570
U5 mortality rate *	130
Infant mortality rate	47
Maternal mortality ratio (2005, adjusted)	380
Primary school enrolment ratio (2000-2006, net, male/female)	n/a
% U1 fully immunized (DPT3)	67
% population using improved drinking water sources (rural/urban)	56/77
Estimated no. of people (all ages) living with HIV, 2005 (thousands)	n/a
% U5 suffering moderate and severe underweight/stunting	46/49

Sources: *The State of the World's Children 2008*
* Ministry of Health, Health statistics 2006.

The children of Timor-Leste are still suffering the consequences of violence that resulted from the political and civil unrest in 2006. A large majority of the displaced population still lives in camps, and a significant number remains with host families. For many, return is not yet a viable option. The nutritional status of children and lactating mothers continues to deteriorate. Children are particularly vulnerable, especially in camps where they face increased risks of physical and gender-based violence, and trafficking. The situation remains volatile; violence flared up in some districts following the announcement of the new Government and triggered further displacement. Schools have been burnt and vandalized. Children continue to be victims of violence.

Summary of UNICEF financial needs for 2008

Sector	US\$
Health and nutrition	700,000
Water, sanitation and hygiene	1,500,000
Education	200,000
Child protection	256,800
Adolescents/youth and HIV/AIDS	300,000
Advocacy and communication	200,000
Emergency coordination, monitoring and evaluation	250,000
Total*	3,406,800

* 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

Eighteen months after political and civil unrest triggered generalized violence in the country, the children of Timor-Leste continue to endure the consequences. A large majority of the population displaced then is still living in camps, mainly in the capital Dili, and a significant number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) remain with host families in the districts. For many, return is not yet a viable option. Over 45 per cent of IDPs reported that their homes have been destroyed and 33 per cent that they had been damaged. While the specific vulnerability of IDPs is well recognized and not questioned, there is also an acknowledgment that in the context of Timor-Leste, IDPs are not the only category of persons in need of protection and assistance.

Over 40 per cent of the population live below the poverty line. The level of household food insecurity in Timor-Leste is reflected in the malnutrition rate among vulnerable groups, including young children and women. The nutritional status of children and lactating mothers continues to deteriorate.¹ Around 49 per cent of under-five children are chronically malnourished, and 46 per cent are underweight. Combined effects of frequent and severe infectious diseases, constant malnutrition and parasites have led to an under-five mortality of 130 deaths per 1,000 live births.

Food shortages and household food insecurity are particularly severe during the country's 'lean' season, from October to March. However, the upcoming 'lean' season is expected to start much earlier this year because of a reduction of 25 to 30 per cent in crop production, due to adverse weather conditions and an outbreak of locusts, according to the WFP/FAO joint Crop and Food Supply Assessment Mission (CFSAM), conducted in March/April 2007. Besides being affected by the resulting reduction in agricultural production, household food insecurity also increased due to the civil unrest and the subsequent IDP movements.

Rapid interventions in IDP camps, especially timely provision of water, sanitation and hygiene, have helped the general morbidity rates to remain under control, albeit malnutrition and maternal mortality rates remain very high. Despite the above bleak picture, the population in Dili IDP camps was somewhat reduced with some IDPs moving to transitional shelters and others to districts. The Government has shown leadership and has undeniably responded to humanitarian needs rapidly.

Yet, violence flared up in Baucau, Viqueque and Metinaro following the announcement of the new Government on 6 August 2007 and triggered a further new displacement of 5,111 people. Children have yet again been victims of violence. Schools have been burnt and vandalized. Children remain particularly vulnerable, especially in camps where they face increased risks of physical and gender-based violence, and trafficking.

Besides these predicaments, Timor-Leste is vulnerable to natural disasters, in particular floods and landslides. The impending rainy season presents new challenges. A number of camps in Dili are vulnerable to flooding and landslides; and the general shelter conditions have deteriorated in the camps over the last six months. There is an urgent need for an increased focus on creating conditions for transition from camps to longer-term shelter solutions. Some of the makeshift camps are located in unsuitable areas, such as in the National Hospital in Dili, creating public health concerns. The transitional shelter programme, whilst not a durable solution, does represent a considerable improvement in the facilities available in most of the camps.

2. KEY ACTIONS AND ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2007

UNICEF's response to humanitarian needs focused on the sectors of health and nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene, protection, education, adolescents and communication/advocacy. UNICEF was actively involved in many of the sectoral working groups – formed after the crisis to coordinate the emergency response – in particular providing joint leadership with the government in the sectors of child protection, education and water, sanitation and hygiene. The provision of long-lasting insecticidal nets helped reduce the incidence of vector-borne diseases in particular among under-five children. UNICEF persistently promoted breastfeeding in IDP camps and communities. In addition, UNICEF has now a nutritionist tasked with developing strategy, protocols and training modules for a pilot implementation of community-based management of acutely malnourished children. Key intervention in IDP camps, in collaboration with partners, helped avert waterborne diseases. UNICEF trucked water into camps when needed; built drainage and

¹ World Food Programme (WFP) Emergency Food Security Assessment conducted in Dili in September 2007 reveals that 3,900 people including under-five children and lactating mothers are at risk to lives with continuing deterioration in nutritional status.

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water systems; procured emergency equipments; distributed health promotion materials along with hygiene kits, and strengthened the National Directorate for Water (DNAS) with a maintenance team who is providing support in the camps.

Shortly after the crisis, a 'Back to School' campaign was launched to encourage children to return to and stay in school, with emphasis on keeping schools safe for children. UNICEF's emergency child protection response was expanded to include increased partnerships with government and civil society to monitor, report on and address child protection concerns. UNICEF continued to establish Child Protection Networks in districts and to reinforce collaboration between police, social workers and community organizations to prevent child abuse. UNICEF supported the Government's efforts to monitor and report on the status of implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) to the Committee on the Rights of the Child. Young people benefited from life skills-based education training which also increased their awareness on HIV/AIDS through peer education. Children in IDP camps were able to receive *Jornal Labarik*, a monthly children's journal produced for children with several inputs from in-school and out-of-school children. Through continued advocacy, UNICEF managed to convey key messages, including against the manipulation of children in political activities.

3. PLANNED HUMANITARIAN ACTION FOR 2008

Coordination and partnership

The Humanitarian Coordinator (HC) is the main focal point for humanitarian assistance from the UN side, supported by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and an integrated humanitarian coordination team. It is worth mentioning that humanitarian coordination in Timor-Leste towards a coordinated and effective approach in support of the Government is along the lines of the Principles of Partnership endorsed by the Global Humanitarian Platform. There is one sole humanitarian coordination forum which brings the UN humanitarian agencies and NGOs under the auspices of the HC. While the cluster approach has not been formally activated in Timor-Leste, humanitarian assistance is undertaken by sectoral working groups – chaired by the Government and comprising UN agencies and NGOs – in which UNICEF has key roles. The sectoral working groups report to an Operational Task Force which brings policy recommendations and all pressing humanitarian issues to a special interministerial commission. In order to address emerging and cross-cutting issues in the humanitarian context of Timor-Leste, UNICEF along with OCHA organized an Inter-agency capacity-building workshop for preparedness, contingency planning and response.

Regular programme

One of UNICEF Timor-Leste's key achievements in 2007 was to fully incorporate emergency response into regular programmes. Humanitarian assistance and emergency preparedness will continue to be an integrated part of the Country Programme in 2008, which also addresses underlying causes of the past crises, by introducing community-level convergence of basic services and a strong emphasis on youth, peace-building initiatives and strategic communication.

Humanitarian assistance to IDPs, including children and women, will continue with continued focus on assisting IDPs in communities and districts. At the same time, UNICEF will support the Government to facilitate the return of IDPs to their communities and help with the transition from humanitarian assistance to development activities. UNICEF's key planned activities will incorporate transitional activities, while addressing the critical elements of a minimum level of emergency preparedness for natural disasters and epidemics across all sectoral areas.

Health and nutrition (US\$ 700,000)

UNICEF will ensure that the Ministry of Health has both the supplies and the technical and logistical capacity to reach all women and children in the five target districts (Dili, Liquica, Manatuto, Ermera and Aileu) in order to achieve full immunization and emergency obstetric care. Ministry of Health staff will be equipped to deliver in-patient therapeutic feeding countrywide and community-based therapeutic feeding in one pilot district for children, and preventative and curative care against malaria and other vector- and waterborne diseases. Community-based networks will be strengthened through the Family Health Promoter Programme for interaction with the Ministry of Health, in order to expand service coverage and contribute to peace-building.

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Emergency stocks will be built up and national and international technical assistance recruited for programme implementation as required. Key activities will include:

- Procure sufficient vaccines, cold-chain and related equipment for 25 community health centres over one year;
- 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 50 district health staff in immunization, therapeutic feeding and contribute to the training of midwives and other health staff in emergency obstetric care;
- Support implementation of Family Health Promoter Programme in four pilot districts, to include strengthening of monitoring systems and community support structures. Provide technical assistance with strategy for scaling up the Programme countrywide;
- Develop an infant and young child feeding communication strategy to be implemented throughout the target area;
- Recruit national and international technical assistance to manage/implement the programme.

Water, sanitation and hygiene (US\$ 1,500,000)

Integrating water supply, improved sanitation and hygiene into a comprehensive package will be the strategy to address the needs of affected communities. Water, sanitation and hygiene activities will be implemented by community-based organizations with support from local NGOs and/or contractors. Government counterparts, such as staff from the Division of Community Water and Sanitation Service, will be trained in management and emergency preparedness and response activities. Major proposed interventions will include:

- Provide safe, clean and reliable water supply systems and support sanitation and hygiene promotion in at least 50 schools/communities in six districts;
- Facilitate the construction/rehabilitation of 1,500 household latrines in districts;
- Support the celebration nationwide of the International Year of Sanitation 2008;
- Help develop human resources and enhance the capacity of 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 water, sanitation and hygiene support to IDPs and disaster-affected people;
- 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 10,000 IDPs;
- Recruit national and international technical assistance to manage and implement the programme.

Education (US\$ 200,000)

UNICEF Timor-Leste's emergency preparedness and response is fully funded under the Dutch Emergency Education grant. Education activities will endeavour to enhance the capacity of the Ministry of Education in the area of emergency preparedness and response at national, regional and district levels. This will include developing a manual and a training programme tailored to the needs of Timor-Leste as well as preparing response plans at all levels.

UNICEF will support the development of emergency school kits based on locally available or regionally easily accessible resources. The kits will include teaching/learning materials as well as teacher manuals to address specific needs in times of emergency, such as stress management and conflict resolution. In addition to these efforts, UNICEF will provide technical assistance to strengthen the logistical capacity of the Ministry of Education to deal with material distribution, warehousing and supply management.

Child protection (US\$ 256,800)

A total of 30,000 crisis-affected children and their families will be reached through community-based interventions and will receive psychosocial support through play and recreation. To address the issue of increased arrests linked to violence during emergencies, preparedness training on approved Rules of Procedure for police officers will be carried out. New laws related to children in conflict with the law (often children and youth involved in gang violence) will be developed and programmes related to their implementation supported. Peace-building will be supported through advocacy and social mobilization as well as trainings on conflict resolution, positive discipline methods and reconciliation.

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Key activities will include:

- Support psychosocial activities (play, recreation and other activities) for displaced children and children in affected communities. Activities will be implemented in partnership with local and international NGOs and the local administration with particular reference to the National Division of Social Services (DNSS);
- Distribute recreation kits, containing sporting equipment and toys for young children in IDP camps and affected communities;
- Implement community-based planning processes to support Child Protection Networks at the district and *suco* (village) levels, resulting in local action plans for the protection of children. Involves training and capacity-building to integrate children's issues and extend support programmes for children at the local level;
- Promote non-violence, positive parenting and good relationships in families/communities through printed materials (e.g., positive parenting guides) and activities such as community theatre, workshops and peace-building sessions run by partner NGOs;
- Develop community-based diversion programmes for children in conflict with the law in Dili and selected districts;
- Provide technical assistance and human resources to Government, particularly the Ministry of Social Solidarity and 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/youth and HIV/AIDS (US\$ 300,000)

Young people will continue to benefit from life skills-based education training as well as from HIV/AIDS awareness. Key activities will include:

- Support HIV/AIDS prevention education activities targeting 20,000 young people in and out of school in 13 districts;
- Conduct life skills-based education training for 2,000 young people in and out of school in six districts;
- Set up 10 literacy classes (basic and primary school equivalency literacy) in IDP camps for 250 adolescents;
- Support sporting activities to reach 10,000 young people in 13 districts;
- Support youth-initiated community peace promotion and reconciliation initiatives in Dili and selected districts;
- Stockpile canopies for 30 learning spaces in response to emergency.

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 13 districts). Key activities will include:

- Conduct focus group discussions with children and youth, particularly those who have been severely affected by the crises, on the type of information they would want to access and media activities they would like to participate in;
- Support the participation of displaced children and young people in TV and radio programmes and in print materials, such as *Jornal Labarik*;
- Organize film screenings in IDP camps and emergency radio programmes;
- 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;
- Establish a district-based communication and information centre for adolescents which will provide information at the centre's premises, through information boards at crucial places in the districts; and organize film screenings for children and young people in collaboration with *suco* (village) chiefs and district administrators;
- 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, the Dili Diocese Youth Commission, Caritas Dili, Colegio São José and Muslim organizations;
- Prepare press releases and human interest stories for the UNICEF website and local and international media;
- Maintain minimum stock of UNICEF advocacy supplies for emergency;

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- 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 evaluation (US\$ 250,000)

- An Emergency Specialist is recruited to effectively coordinate UNICEF's broad scope of areas in emergency preparedness and response; and further enhance sectoral coordination under the government coordination structure; this function will continue in 2008 and additional funds will be required to carry on the position;
- Monitor indicators of all sectors in close collaboration with Government ministries to track progress and ensure that results are linked with the newly introduced DevInfo emergency module;
- Conduct a full evaluation of UNICEF-supported emergency response in 2007 to take stock of lessons learned and further improve ongoing support to IDPs and emergency preparedness.