



**BUREAU FOR DEMOCRACY, CONFLICT, AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE (DCHA)
OFFICE OF U.S. FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (OFDA)**

East Timor – Complex Emergency

Fact Sheet #1, Fiscal Year (FY) 2008

May 16, 2008

Note: The last fact sheet was dated September 30, 2007.

BACKGROUND AND KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- To date in 2008, approximately 100,000 people remain displaced due to civil unrest which began in April 2006 following the dismissal of soldiers protesting alleged discrimination against military personnel from the western part of the country.
- Humanitarian organizations cite continuing insecurity and the lack of sufficient housing options as the major factors contributing to the protracted displacement.
- On March 29, U.N. and humanitarian organizations released a transitional strategy and appeal focusing on humanitarian assistance to internally displaced persons (IDPs), supporting the Government of Timor-Leste (GOTL) national recovery strategy, and addressing gaps in disaster risk management.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE	SOURCE	
Total IDPs	100,000	GOTL – February 26, 2008
IDPs in Dili camps	30,000	GOTL – February 26, 2008

USAID HUMANITARIAN FUNDING PROVIDED TO DATE IN FY 2007 AND 2008

USAID/OFDA Assistance to East Timor	\$1,918,306
USAID/FFP¹ Assistance to East Timor	\$3,350,000
USAID/Timor-Leste Assistance to East Timor	\$705,595
Total USAID Humanitarian Assistance to East Timor	\$5,973,901

CURRENT SITUATION

- The GOTL estimates that as of February 2008, approximately 100,000 people remain displaced, including 30,000 IDPs located in camps within and on the outskirts of the capital city, Dili, and 70,000 others living with host families in other districts countrywide.
- On April 23, the GOTL lifted the state of emergency in all districts except in the western district of Ermera, where members of the opposition group responsible for the assassination attempt on President Jose Ramos-Horta in February 2008 remained at large, contributing to ongoing insecurity.

Food Security

- In Timor-Leste, U.N. agencies have identified ongoing population displacement, limited access to arable land, and continued vulnerability to natural disasters, such as floods and drought, as factors exacerbating high levels of chronic food insecurity.
- According to the September 2007 Emergency Food Security Assessment in Dili, 50 percent of IDPs receiving food rations in the camps as well as 50 percent of the population in surrounding communities not reached by distributions reported food insecurity. As a result of the assessment, the GOTL and humanitarian organizations are developing mechanisms to better target extremely vulnerable populations.
- In March, the U.N. World Food Program (WFP) conducted a final distribution of a half-month of food rations in Dili IDP camps. Beginning in April, the GOTL will continue half-ration distributions in the camps, while WFP will provide rations to IDPs leaving camps as an incentive to return home.
- In FY 2008, USAID/FFP has provided approximately 1,040 metric tons (MT) of rice and vegetable oil to WFP.

Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene

- The construction of many Dili-area IDP camps in church or government compounds has limited available space for sanitation infrastructure. As a result, the camps require ongoing sanitation infrastructure maintenance, hygiene promotion, and waterborne disease control.

¹ USAID's Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP)

- In FY 2008, USAID/OFDA is supporting the U.N. Children’s Fund (UNICEF) to upgrade sanitation infrastructure in Dili-area IDP camps. The program also focuses on improving sanitation facilities in local primary schools affected by the conflict and/or seasonal flooding.

IDP Assistance

- The GOTL and humanitarian organizations estimate that 25 to 30 percent of IDPs currently living in Dili and Baucau district camps will choose to return home in 2008 using government assistance available through the national recovery strategy. However, the majority of IDPs who choose to remain in the camps will continue to require humanitarian assistance.
- In FY 2008, USAID/OFDA will continue to provide support for Catholic Relief Services (CRS)-implemented programs to provide camp security, camp management capacity building, and conflict mitigation and resolution activities for community and IDP leaders. CRS will also continue to support the Simu Malu process, a GOTL-led reconciliation and reintegration program for IDPs in Dili.

USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

- On November 30, 2007, U.S. Ambassador Hans G. Klemm redeclared a disaster due to continued civil unrest, population displacement, and food insecurity. To date in FY 2008, USAID/OFDA has provided more than \$720,000 to support health, humanitarian coordination and information management, IDP assistance, protection, shelter, and water, sanitation, and hygiene activities. In FY 2007, USAID/OFDA provided nearly \$1.2 million in humanitarian assistance.
- In FY 2008, USAID/FFP provided more than \$1.1 million in P.L. 480 Title II emergency food assistance to WFP. USAID/FFP provided approximately \$2.2 million in emergency food assistance in FY 2007.
- In January 2008, USAID’s Office of Conflict Management and Mitigation provided nearly \$800,000 to CARE and Mercy Corps for community and youth peacebuilding activities.
- In FY 2007, USAID/Timor-Leste provided funds to the Alola Foundation for psychosocial services for the widows of those killed during renewed violence in 2006. USAID/Timor-Leste is also supporting CARE and CRS to provide peacebuilding activities, including peace dialogue, throughout the country.
- In FY 2008, the U.S. Department of State Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM) plans to contribute \$9.2 million to the Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and \$7.7 million to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to support regional programs that protect and assist refugees and IDPs in East Asia, including East Timor. In FY 2007 State/PRM provided \$8.4 million to UNHCR and \$7.9 million to ICRC to support East Asia regional programs.

USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO EAST TIMOR IN FY 2007 AND FY 2008

FY2008			
Implementing Partner	Activity	Location	Amount
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE¹			
CRS	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management; IDP Assistance; Protection; Shelter and Settlements; Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	Baucau, Dili Districts	\$520,203
UNICEF	Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	Baucau, Dili Districts	\$200,000
TOTAL USAID/OFDA			\$720,203
USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE			
WFP	1,040 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$1,150,000
TOTAL USAID/FFP			\$1,150,000
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO EAST TIMOR IN FY 2008			\$1,870,203

¹ USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of May 16, 2008.

² Estimated value of food assistance.

FY2007			
Implementing Partner	Activity	Location	Amount
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE¹			
CARE	Health; IDP Assistance; Protection; Shelter and Settlements; Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	Dili District	\$534,139
CRS	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management; IDP Assistance; Protection; Shelter and Settlements; Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	Baucau, Dili Districts	\$463,964
UNICEF	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	Baucau, Dili, and Liquica Districts	\$200,000
TOTAL USAID/OFDA			\$1,198,103
USAID/TIMOR-LESTE ASSISTANCE			
Alola Foundation	Psychosocial Services	Countrywide	\$5,595
CARE	Peacebuilding Activities	Countrywide	\$474,126
CRS	Peacebuilding Activities	Countrywide	\$225,874
TOTAL USAID/TIMOR-LESTE			\$705,595
USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE			
WFP	2,260 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$2,200,000
TOTAL USAID/FFP			\$2,200,000
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO EAST TIMOR IN FY 2007			\$4,103,698
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO EAST TIMOR IN FY 2007 AND FY 2008			\$5,973,901

PUBLIC DONATION INFORMATION

- The most effective way people can assist relief efforts is by making cash contributions to humanitarian organizations that are conducting relief operations. Information on organizations responding to the humanitarian situation in East Timor may be available at www.reliefweb.org.
- USAID encourages cash donations because they allow aid professionals to procure the exact items needed (often in the affected region); reduce the burden on scarce resources (such as transportation routes, staff time, warehouse space, etc); can be transferred very quickly and without transportation costs; support the economy of the disaster-stricken region; and ensure culturally, dietary, and environmentally appropriate assistance.
- More information can be found at:
 - USAID: www.usaid.gov – Keyword: Donations
 - The Center for International Disaster Information: www.cidi.org or (703) 276-1914
 - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at www.reliefweb.int