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U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
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) 2007

April 19, 2007

BACKGROUND

- In April 2006, the commander of East Timor’s armed forces, with the support of the former Prime Minister, dismissed nearly 600 soldiers who were protesting alleged discrimination against military personnel from the western part of the country. The dismissals exacerbated existing political and social tensions, and resulted in riots, confrontations between the police and military forces, and subsequent clashes involving youth gangs due to the absence of law and order. Approximately 150,000 East Timorese were displaced at the height of the violence, according to the U.N. and humanitarian monitoring organizations.
- The unrest prompted the deployment of international peacekeeping forces in May 2006, and the establishment of the U.N. Integrated Mission and an international police force in August 2006.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE		SOURCE
Total Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)	100,000	OCHA ¹ – March 14, 2007
IDPs in Dili camps	30,000	OCHA – March 14, 2007

USAID HUMANITARIAN FUNDING PROVIDED TO DATE (FY 2006 AND FY 2007)

USAID/OFDA Assistance to East Timor	\$1,970,836
USAID/FFP² Assistance to East Timor	\$3,400,000
Total USAID Humanitarian Assistance to East Timor	\$5,370,836

CURRENT SITUATION

- The U.N. estimates that as of March 2007, approximately 100,000 people remain displaced, with 30,000 IDPs located in camps near the capital city of Dili, and 70,000 living with host families in other districts. In January 2007, violence and arson displaced approximately 5,000 people in Dili, according to OCHA.
- On April 9, 2007, East Timorese residents voted for a new president in the first locally-organized election since independence from Indonesia in 2002. Foreign election observers, including representatives from the European Union, reported the election was generally orderly and peaceful. A run-off election will occur on May 8.

IDP Assistance

- Since April 2006, outbursts of violence damaged or destroyed approximately 3,200 houses in Dili, leaving as many as 14,000 IDPs without homes, according to a December 2006 comprehensive housing assessment by the U.N. Development Program. While security has improved since the deployment of the international police force, many IDPs remain reluctant to return due to fears of potential attacks by neighbors or gang members, according to Catholic Relief Services (CRS).
- USAID/OFDA is funding CARE to support camp managers, provide shelter materials, conduct disease surveillance, and implement child and gender protection activities for approximately 8,000 Dili IDPs. In addition, CARE is working with the Government of East Timor to facilitate the safe return and reintegration of IDPs.
- In FY 2007, USAID/OFDA is also supporting CRS to provide services, including temporary shelter, camp manager capacity building, and camp security, to IDP camps in Dili. CRS is also working with community groups to promote reconciliation and resettlement activities.

Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene

- According to the U.N., inadequate access to a safe and reliable drinking water supply and sanitation facilities remains a problem in IDP camps, schools, and rural areas hosting displaced populations. The U.N. has identified 11 IDP camps in Dili at high risk for flooding and potential disease outbreaks without improved drainage conditions.
- In FY 2007, USAID/OFDA is providing \$200,000 to assist the U.N. Children’s Fund (UNICEF) to improve access to safe drinking water, provide sanitation facilities, and ensure improved hygienic practices for 35,000 IDPs in Dili, Baucau, and Liquica districts. UNICEF will also train district water and sanitation staff in disaster preparedness and response.

¹ U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)

² USAID’s Office of Food for Peace

- CRS is providing health, sanitation, and hygiene training for 8,300 IDPs in Dili camps with USAID/OFDA support in FY 2007. In addition, USAID/OFDA funded CARE to provide hygiene kits and assist with the provision and strategic development of water and sanitation systems for approximately 8,000 displaced persons in 13 Dili District camps.

USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

- On May 11, 2006, U.S. Ambassador Grover Joseph Rees III declared a disaster due to the violence and resulting IDP situation in East Timor. To date in FY 2007, USAID/OFDA has provided \$995,241 to support health, IDP assistance, protection, shelter, and water, sanitation, and hygiene activities. In FY 2006, USAID/OFDA allocated \$975,595 for health, IDP assistance, protection, shelter, and water, sanitation, and hygiene activities, as well as the airlift and sealift of emergency relief supplies which were consigned to CRS.
- To date in FY 2007, USAID/FFP has provided 2,260 metric tons (MT) of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food assistance valued at \$2.2 million to the U.N. World Food Program (WFP). USAID/FFP also contributed 1,550 MT of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food assistance valued at \$1.2 million to WFP in FY 2006.

USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO EAST TIMOR IN FY 2007 AND FY 2006

<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
FY 2007			
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE¹			
CARE	Health, IDP Assistance, Protection, Shelter, and Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	Dili District	\$434,139
CRS	IDP Assistance, Protection, Shelter, and Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	Dili District	\$361,102
UNICEF	Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	Baucau, Dili, and Liquica Districts	\$ 200,000
TOTAL USAID/OFDA			\$995,241
USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE²			
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 2007³			\$3,195,241
FY 2006			
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE¹			
CARE	Emergency Relief Supplies, Health, IDP Assistance, Protection, Shelter, and Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	Dili District	\$200,000
CRS	Emergency Relief Supplies ⁴ , Health, and IDP Assistance	Dili District	\$769,575
	Administrative Costs		\$6,020
TOTAL USAID/OFDA			\$975,595
USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE²			
WFP	1,550 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$1,200,000
TOTAL USAID/FFP			\$1,200,000
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO EAST TIMOR IN FY 2006⁵			\$2,175,595

¹ USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of April 19, 2007.

² Estimated value of food assistance.

³ In FY 2007, the U.S. Department of State Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM) provided \$2 million to the Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to support regional programs that protect and assist refugees and IDPs in East Asia, including East Timor.

⁴ Includes transportation.

⁵ In FY 2006, State/PRM provided \$7.6 million to International Committee of the Red Cross regional programs in East Asia, including East Timor. In addition, State/PRM contributed \$7.6 million to UNHCR for regional activities in East Asia.

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