



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

***Timor-Leste (East Timor) – Complex Emergency***

Fact Sheet #2, Fiscal Year (FY) 2008

September 30, 2008

*Note: The last fact sheet was dated May 16, 2008.*

**KEY DEVELOPMENTS**

- Civil unrest associated with the protests and subsequent dismissal of soldiers alleging discrimination against military personnel began in April, 2006 and resulted in the protracted displacement of approximately 10,000 families. The Government of Timor-Leste (GOTL) has facilitated the return of nearly 6,500 families to their places of origin in recent months.
- On March 29, 2008, U.N. and humanitarian organizations released a transitional strategy and appeal focused on providing humanitarian assistance to internally displaced persons (IDPs), supporting the national recovery strategy of the GOTL, and addressing gaps in disaster risk management. As a result, the GOTL has concentrated efforts to decommission IDP camps and move IDPs to transitional shelters and places of origin.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE		SOURCE
<b>Total IDP Families at Present</b>	9,230	OCHA <sup>1</sup> – September 9, 2008
<b>IDP Families Assisted to Return</b>	6,315	OCHA – September 9, 2008

**USAID HUMANITARIAN FUNDING PROVIDED TO DATE IN FY 2008**

<b>USAID/OFDA Assistance to Timor-Leste .....</b>	<b>\$1,220,203</b>
<b>USAID/FFP<sup>2</sup> Assistance Timor-Leste.....</b>	<b>\$1,150,000</b>
<b>USAID/CMM Assistance Timor-Leste .....</b>	<b>\$799,667</b>
<b>Total USAID Humanitarian Assistance to Timor-Leste .....</b>	<b>\$3,169,870</b>

**CURRENT SITUATION**

- The GOTL is decommissioning IDP camps and moving displaced persons to transitional shelters and places of origin. To date, approximately 21 camps have closed in Dili, and the GOTL has constructed six transitional shelters with the support of the international organizations. The U.N. and other humanitarian organizations continue to closely monitor water, sanitation, and hygiene conditions, in addition to safety and security of returning IDPs.
- In August, the U.N. and GOTL signed a five-year development road map to provide programs that promote greater peace and stability and aim to reduce poverty among vulnerable populations.

***Food Security***

- U.N. agencies in Timor-Leste reported deteriorating food security during FY 2008, identifying ongoing population displacement, limited access to arable land, and continued vulnerability to floods, landslides and other natural hazards as factors. According to the U.N. World Food Program (WFP), the rising price of food, combined with impending shortages of dietary staples, will likely increase rates of malnutrition in the coming months.
- In FY 2008, USAID/FFP provided approximately 1,040 metric tons (MT) of rice and vegetable oil to WFP, targeting displaced populations. This assistance was worth more than \$1.1 million.

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

- The construction of Dili-area IDP camps in church or government compounds has limited available space for sanitation infrastructure. As a result, the camps require frequent maintenance of sanitation infrastructure, hygiene promotion, and waterborne disease control.
- As IDP camps are decommissioned, the GOTL is administering mandatory water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) promotion programs for IDPs who return to their places of origin.
- In FY 2008, USAID/OFDA provided \$200,000 to the U.N. Children’s Fund (UNICEF) to upgrade sanitation infrastructure in Dili-area camps. UNICEF’s programs also focused on improving sanitation facilities in local primary schools affected by conflict and/or seasonal flooding.

<sup>1</sup> U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)

<sup>2</sup> USAID’s Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP)

**IDP Assistance**

- According to OCHA, approximately 6,500 IDP families returned home since December 2007, nearly all of whom received a recovery and reintegration package under the GOTL's National Recovery Strategy program. The GOTL has closed 21 camps in Dili, and has constructed six transitional shelter sites with a nearly 80 percent occupancy rate.
- In FY 2008, USAID/OFDA continued to provide support for Catholic Relief Services (CRS) in 15 IDP camps supporting programs for management and capacity building, protection, shelter and settlements, and WASH. The funding provided by USAID/OFDA also supported the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) for construction of transitional shelters.
- The GOTL says that it will continue to require support in FY 2009 to fully decommission the remaining IDP camps and provide safety and security for returning persons.

**USG 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. In FY 2008, USAID/OFDA has provided more than \$1.2 million to support humanitarian coordination and information management; IDP assistance and protection; shelter and settlements; and water, sanitation, and hygiene activities.
- In FY 2008, USAID/FFP provided more than \$1.1 in P.L. 480 Title II emergency food assistance to WFP.
- In January 2008, USAID/CMM provided nearly \$800,000 to CARE and Mercy Corps for community and youth peacebuilding activities.
- In FY 2008, the U.S. Department of State Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM) contributed \$8.1 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 Timor-Leste.

**USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO TIMOR-LESTE IN FY 2008**

<b>FY 2008</b>			
<b>Implementing Partner</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Amount</b>
<b>USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE<sup>1</sup></b>			
CRS	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management, Shelter and Settlements	Baucau, Dili Districts	\$520,203
NRC	Shelter and Settlements	Baucau, Dili Districts	\$500,000
UNICEF	Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	Baucau, Dili Districts	\$200,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA</b>			<b>\$1,220,203</b>
<b>USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE</b>			
WFP	1,040 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$1,150,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/FFP</b>			<b>\$1,150,000</b>
<b>USAID/CMM ASSISTANCE</b>			
CARE	Peacebuilding, Psychosocial Services	Dili District	\$399,667
Mercy Corps	Peacebuilding, Psychosocial Services	Dili District, Suai	\$400,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/CMM</b>			<b>\$799,667</b>
<b>TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO EAST TIMOR IN FY 2008<sup>2</sup></b>			<b>\$3,169,870</b>

<sup>1</sup> USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of September 30, 2008.

<sup>2</sup> This number does not reflect obligated funding from State/PRM.

**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 Timor-Leste may be available at [www.reliefweb.org](http://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](http://www.usaid.gov) – Keyword: Donations
  - The Center for International Disaster Information: [www.cidi.org](http://www.cidi.org) or (703) 276-1914
  - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at [www.reliefweb.int](http://www.reliefweb.int)