



TIMOR-LESTE

IFRC network mid-year report, January – June 2023

23 November 2023

IN SUPPORT OF THE TIMOR-LESTE RED CROSS SOCIETY



13

National Society branches



139

National Society staff



794

National Society volunteers

PEOPLE REACHED

Disasters and crises



1,729

Health and wellbeing



6,598

Values, power and inclusion



81

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW


in Swiss francs (CHF)

Total		Funding requirements	1.2M
IFRC	Longer-term	Funding requirements	943,000
		Income	1.1M
Participating National Societies		Funding requirements	279,000
		Income	346,000

[Click here for more financial information](#)

Appeal number **MAATP001**

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Climate	People reached with activities to address rising climate risks	Applicable data not available
	People reached with activities to address environmental problems	Applicable data not available
	National Society is implementing nature-based solutions (including those with a particular focus on the planting of trees and mangroves)	Yes
Disasters and crises	People reached with disaster risk reduction	 2,000
	People reached with livelihoods support	69
Health and wellbeing	People reached with immunization services	 7,000
	People reached with contextually appropriate water, sanitation and hygiene services	 3,000
	People trained in first aid	Applicable data not available
	People reached with contextually appropriate health services	Applicable data not available
	People donating blood	Applicable data not available
Values, power and inclusion	People reached by protection, gender and inclusion programming	81

ENABLING FUNCTIONS

IFRC engages in inter-agency coordination during operation Yes

Number of formal interagency/international coordination platforms the IFRC network is part of Applicable data not available

Strategic and operational coordination

Number of government led coordination platforms the National Society is part of Applicable data not available

Number of IFRC monitoring and support missions 3

All volunteers are covered by health, accident and death compensation Applicable data not available

National Society Development

One National Society Development plan is in place Yes

National Society has demonstrated progress in digital transformation according to the digital maturity model outlined in the IFRC Digital Transformation Strategy Yes

Accountability and agility

National Society has functioning data management systems that inform decision making and support monitoring and reporting on the impact and evidence of the IFRC network's contributions Yes

IFRC NETWORK SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES

National Society	Multilateral Support	Bilateral Support					
		Climate	Migration and displacement	Values, power and inclusion	Enabling Functions	Disasters and crises	Health and wellbeing
American Red Cross	●						
Australian Red Cross	●	●		●	●	●	
Finnish Red Cross	●						
Indonesian Red Cross Society						●	●
Italian Red Cross	●	●			●		
Korean Red Cross		●				●	●
Netherlands Red Cross	●					●	
New Zealand Red Cross	●				●		●

■ Planned ■ Supported

OVERALL PROGRESS

Cruz Vermelha de Timor-Leste (Timor-Leste Red Cross) has been delivering its programmes and services in relation to its evolving socio-political, economic, climate or environmental context. The changing contextual issues also affect how Timor-Leste Red Cross works with the community and stakeholders across the country, bringing both positive improvements and challenges to the National Society.

Timor-Leste Red Cross, as a humanitarian organization that has an auxiliary role to the public authorities in Timor-Leste, has adjusted its plan to be aligned with government priorities in both community development and humanitarian actions, at local and national levels. Timor-Leste has recently conducted two cycles of Presidential elections - José Manuel Ramos-Horta won by 64 per cent in the May 2022 elections and in the following parliamentary election in May 2023, a new government was elected. This new governance is committed to prioritize its work with the international community to continue supporting the country's efforts to become more resilient to multiple shocks and to help deliver the National Strategic Development Plan, that focuses on developing the country's human capital. This is aligned with Timor-Leste Red Cross's 2023 plan for 2023, which is supported by the IFRC and wider Federation network.

In the context of climate and environment, El-Nino-related extreme weather events have become more frequent and more intense over the past 20 years according to preliminary research, including a study of data from Indonesia's East Nusa Tenggara Province. The rainfall pattern in Timor-Leste is strongly characterized by the impact of the Australian Monsoon. During the Australian Summer Monsoon (December to April), most of Timor-Leste experiences wet conditions. Meanwhile the dry season usually lasts for several months, from May to November. Due to global warming, Timor-Leste is experiencing a shift to an even hotter climate, with hot days and nights becoming the norm. Heat waves and hot spells are predicted to increase dramatically in the next 20 years and beyond. While people in Timor-Leste are used to its tropical climate, the drastic increase in days with temperatures above 35°C and tropical nights will require adaptive efforts. To overcome those conditions, Timor-Leste Red Cross has mobilized its volunteers to support communities during hazardous climate conditions and worked to address challenges in providing timely and effective programming in this area.

To address climate and environmental issues, the National Society's Integrated Community Based Risk Reduction (ICBRR) programme, has succeeded in bringing changes for the communities. Timor-Leste Red Cross has provided disaster risk reduction (DRR) related activities and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) facilities in four target villages in the Ainaro and Manufahi Municipality. The communities can now access clean and safe water through constructed water points and have access to public latrines to stop the practice of open defecation. These facilities have been constructed and maintained by the community committees and volunteers in each village to ensure their ongoing ownership. This good practice has inspired other villages to do the same.

Although there was no big emergency response needed during the first half of this year, Timor-Leste Red Cross continued to get ready for any further disasters or crises, preparing their levels of assistance, especially in Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA). The National Society has been refining its CVA Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) and improving its skills in CVA-related information management during this period. The IFRC country cluster delegation in Jakarta has also been involved in supporting the National Society's Voucher Application ("Loja") development and has assisted with the commodity vendor selection process to ensure its compliance with IFRC Procurement Procedures.

To strengthen the internal development of the National Society and partnerships with external stakeholders, Timor-Leste Red Cross has continued to improve its organizational capacity, including developing its planning, monitoring, evaluation, and reporting (PMER) guidelines, engaging in a digital transformation process, improving its financial system, and improving areas of overall management. This work has been supported by the Red Ready and National Society Development (NSD) programmes that are funded by American Red Cross and Italian Red Cross. Timor-Leste Red Cross also actively participated in local and national level working groups, such as the CVA working group and national cluster system with government agencies, United Nations (UN) agencies, and other organizations, while building partnerships with the media and academia.

Timor-Leste Red Cross's work to improve services at local to national level has increased both the trust of communities and of other stakeholders, including donors and participating National Societies. Starting from April 2023, and with support from the IFRC, the National Society got funding from the Netherlands Red Cross to implement a two-year

Chronic Crisis Block Allocation programme, as a support to the National Society's preparedness work to manage future crises.

IFRC NETWORK ACTION

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



Climate and environment

Through their work with communities, Timor-Leste Red Cross has been at the forefront of supporting local communities to reduce their vulnerability to risk and build their resilience. The National Society has been actively engaged in discussions regarding a Climate Change Adaptation policy, notably through the development of a National Action Plan (NAP) for Adaptation of Timor-Leste. The National Society has planned to support the mid and long-term priorities of the government identified in the NAP, which are in line with its own Strategic Plan and capacities.

Starting from 2022, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) launched a project focusing on the development of end-to-end multi-hazard early warning systems in Timor-Leste, with support from the Green Climate Fund (GCF). Under this five-year programme, UNEP, in partnership with national government agencies (including, the State Secretariat of the Environment, the National Meteorological Agency and the State Secretariat for Civil Protection) and non-government actors (Including UN's Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre and Timor-Leste Red Cross), will implement activities to enhance early warning systems across the country. This has great potential to significantly enhance existing efforts on early warning in the country.

Under another GCF project directly coordinated by the IFRC's Asia Pacific Regional Office and the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre, Timor-Leste Red Cross has received funding to build its Integrated Community Based Risk Reduction (ICBRR) programme, which supports communities to receive and act on the end-to-end early warning system. The National Society is taking on an important role in making the national system a relevant and effective community-based system. In February 2023, along with other national stakeholders in the country, the National Society participated in an Anticipatory Action Workshop facilitated by the FAO, IFRC Asia Pacific Regional Office (APRO) and the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre. This workshop aimed to provide both clarity and vision on the anticipatory action approach for the coming five years in Timor-Leste and resulted in an anticipatory action roadmap. The National Society now has an increased understanding of anticipatory action and how it can be used to reduce vulnerabilities and increase disaster resilience, especially at community level.

Through the ICBRR programme, Timor-Leste Red Cross has also trained 97 community volunteers (57 male and 40 female) in four target villages (Tutuluro, Caicasa, Aitutu and Manelobas) on its Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Module, to increase community volunteers' knowledge on safe shelter and climate change. The National Society branches have also established a partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Education to improve environmental protection through reforestation activities. A total of 36 individuals participated in planting 100 seedlings in Tutuluro Village, Manufahi Municipality and this will be replicated elsewhere.



Given the country's vulnerability to natural hazards, Timor-Leste Red Cross is placing a strong focus on their contribution to the development of disaster preparedness in the country. With support from Australian Red Cross and the IFRC, the National Society had utilized the Preparedness for Effective Response (PER) assessment to assess its preparedness capacities and developed activities for 2023 through the PER workshop. The areas and components which the National Society chose to examine in their PER assessment were: (1) Policy, Strategy and Standards: Disaster Response Law (DRL) and International Humanitarian Law (IHL); (2) Analysis and Planning: Business Continuity Planning (BCP), national multi-hazard risk analysis and mapping, national, branch and community early warning systems, cross-border contingency planning and risk monitoring, and community contingency plans; (3) Coordination: meetings and agreements related to disaster management; and (4) Operational Capacity: Health in emergencies.

At the national level, Timor-Leste Red Cross continued to be an active participant in the National Cluster system. In 2023, the National Society further explored its capacity to take on a coordinating role for the Shelter coordination working group within the cluster system, covering training on shelter coordination and support to the administration and direction of the working group. This work is supported by the IFRC and Australian Red Cross. Timor-Leste Red Cross also supports the country's Civil Protection Authority to take a more active leadership role in the national cluster system. As a result of the National Society's close collaboration with the Civil Protection Authorities, it will take on a more active role in enhancing capacities at the Municipal and 'suco' (village) level Disaster Management structure, through training and simulation facilitation.

During January to June 2023, although the COVID-19 pandemic had been stood down and there was no major disaster to respond to, the National Society assisted communities to be prepared for potential disasters or crises. Alongside its work on its anticipatory action priority this year, through the ICBRR project, Timor-Leste Red Cross also mobilized community volunteers to prepare and assist the community to be more resilient. Branch and community volunteers distributed Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials on Family Disaster Response Plans to 237 households or 1,527 people (861 male and 666 female) in target villages and to 105 school students (58 boys and 47 girls). This activity aims to increase public knowledge about actions to be taken before, during and after heavy winds and landslides, in particular.

Simultaneously, Timor-Leste Red Cross made progress in enhancing its capacity for Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA) by refining its CVA Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and increasing its skills in CVA-related information management. The IFRC country cluster delegation in Jakarta supported the National Society to finalize the Voucher Application ("Loja") and the commodity vendor selection process, to ensure its compliance with IFRC Procurement Procedures.

Timor-Leste Red Cross's commitment to support the CVA National Cash Working Group was expressed by its active engagement in group discussions, meetings, and collaborative activities. The appointment of a new coordinator for the Cash Working Group, funded by NORCAP through the World Food Programme (WFP), is expected to provide a significant contribution towards establishing a conducive CVA enabling environment within Timor Leste.

One aspect of community resilience, besides preparedness for disasters, is livelihoods. By the end of June, Timor-Leste Red Cross had distributed chicken coop materials (680 pcs of zinc roof and 272 kgs of nails) to communities, with the community also contributing local materials. In the coming months, the National Society will distribute 690 chickens to these target communities to support their livelihoods. Furthermore, the National Society complemented this effort by supporting savings and loan group activities in partnership with local cooperatives to support the community in managing their finances. The project will end in December 2023, and the National Society will propose an extension of the project to a second phase to broaden the impact of the assistance.



With support from IFRC and Australian Red Cross, Timor-Leste Red Cross continued to improve the capacity of its health staff, volunteers and community members to prepare and respond to epidemics and pandemics. The IFRC also supported the implementation of Preparedness of Effective Response (PER), which highlights components of epidemic and pandemic preparedness and response.

Through the ICBRR programme, Timor-Leste Red Cross assisted the communities in Ainaro and Manufahi Municipality (Manelobas, Aitutu, Tutuluro, and Caicase villages) to distribute health promotion and to improve WASH facilities. The community volunteers actively provided basic health information about diarrhea, malaria and dengue prevention through a door-to-door approach and their consistency and commitment to deliver the message resulted in mosquito-borne diseases being less common in these villages. A feedback collection activity was carried out and found that the communities felt more confident in knowing how to access information and take first aid action in response to cases of child diarrhea.

In three of the targeted villages (Manelobas, Aitutu and Tutuluro), there were also 64 water committees (GMF) set up (50 male and 14 female members) and 109 community volunteers (58 male and 51 female) trained and involved in constructing and maintaining the WASH facilities in the villages. Construction of water tanks has also been completed in two of the target villages (Manelobas and Tutuluro), which have provided the community members with easier access to clean water.

In close collaboration with the target communities, Timor-Leste Red Cross, under the ICBRR programme, has made remarkable strides in enhancing community access to safe water. This initiative covered the rehabilitation of 14 protected water sources, along with the construction of an extensive 14,823-metre, gravity-fed piping system. Additionally, the programme included the establishment of six sedimentation tanks, the development of 21 water reservoirs, and the installation of 46 strategically placed public taps, all serving as convenient water points. This collective effort had a transformative impact, benefiting a total of 3,368 individuals residing across three villages. The community is also enthusiastic to construct latrines in their villages to stop the practice of open defecation. The National Society has constructed eight pilot latrines in the community, with 200 more due to be completed before December 2023. The latrine facilities are helping the communities to carry out their personal hygiene activities and to making them feel safe, especially the women, who now have some privacy. These good practices did not only impact the assisted community, but they also inspired another neighbouring village to do the same.

Health and WASH have also become priority sectors for Timor-Leste Red Cross in terms of emergency or disaster preparedness. The Chronic Crisis programme is prioritizing health and WASH interventions that cover hygiene promotion, safe water access, health risk reduction, and psychosocial support, to ensure that National Society is ready for any future health emergencies.

Timor-Leste Red Cross has consistently demonstrated this readiness and commitment to addressing health crises. From the outset of 2023, Timor Leste experienced a significant rise in dengue cases. By 31 May 2023, 10 of the 13 municipalities reported an increase, with a total of 1,239 cases and the most pronounced spike in the Dili Municipality. In collaboration with the government, Timor-Leste Red Cross sprang into action, mobilizing staff and volunteers for community-focused dengue prevention and awareness campaigns. The National Society also deployed healthcare professionals in Dili's community health centers, ensuring access to primary healthcare for those impacted by dengue. The National Society also offered fleet services to bolster government-led community interventions, including fogging, larvicide distribution, and other proactive dengue mitigation steps. This cemented the National Society's commitment to its partnership with the Ministry of Health (MoH) and has been pivotal in fortifying dengue prevention strategies across the country. Through the Chronic Crisis programme, Timor-Leste Red Cross also planned health and WASH training to better prepare volunteers to conduct hygiene promotion and awareness sessions in the communities. .



Migration and displacement

Timor-Leste Red Cross has always played a pivotal role in supporting displaced communities during emergencies. The National Society will continue to develop its response capacity to support communities that are temporarily displaced by disasters or other crises in the country and to ensure that their immediate needs are met in a timely way.

While Timor-Leste Red Cross does not have a stand-alone programme on migration, there is interest in understanding more about the migration context within the country to see whether there is potential for the National Society to support the government and other stakeholders already working on migration issues. In line with this, Timor-Leste Red Cross is interested in undertaking an assessment to provide analysis and recommendations on where, how and with what kind of investment the National Society could have a greater involvement in supporting and protecting the needs and rights of migrants in the country.



Values, power and inclusion

Both the IFRC's Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) and its Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI) teams aim to ensure that Timor-Leste Red Cross's programmes and responses are people-centered, inclusive, trusted, and safe. CEA provides approaches and tools to ensure the community voices are heard and used for programme adaptation, while PGI ensures the work done does no harm and that no one is excluded, is left behind or is unsafe. Both CEA and PGI approaches are required to ensure the quality of the programmes and responses and to ensure they have a positive impact for communities. The National Society has been working to include these approaches in their programming during the reporting period, particularly to look at gender inclusion across programmes (e.g. safe access to sanitation and feedback exercises on health interventions).

Community involvement in the Timor-Leste Red Cross services is key to programme success, including strengthening the role of young people in the community. In the target villages of the ICBRR programme, young people were provided engaged in activities and provided with musical instruments to communicate key messages and build skills related to DRR and health. By participating in youth activities, they were able to improve their talents and become agents of change in the community. Using the musical instruments provided, the young people in Manelobas village produced songs that highlighted social and environmental issues within their community. This was well accepted by the community and reached even more people when they collaborated with the national television channel to record and perform their songs.

PGI principles are mainstreamed in all Timor-Leste Red Cross services. In the new Chronic Crisis programme, PGI is one of the main expected outcomes, with implementation supporting communities to become more peaceful, safe, and inclusive through meeting the needs and rights of the most vulnerable.

A number of PGI initiatives were outlined for implementation up until June 2023, with support from the Australian Red Cross and the IFRC's country cluster delegation in Jakarta and based on the National Society's most recent presentation during the PGI Workshop in Kuala Lumpur in June 2023. Participation in both the National Gender and Protection, as well as Disability Working Group, is a key component of the action plans. The next steps are for the National Society to include PGI sessions for young people to be presented during quarterly branch and national headquarters meetings. Another important objective is for Timor-Leste Red Cross to complete its disability policy.

Another focus area is the establishment of a PGI stakeholder mapping that outlines the referral pathway to be followed for the dissemination of the PGI Minimum Standards to the relevant stakeholders. To enhance organizational capacity, Timor-Leste Red Cross is planning to organize a PGI Training of Trainers (Tote) programme designed for both branch members and national headquarters staff. In terms of data collection and assessment, the National Society will be developing an effective PGI assessment format that will be integrated into its Kobo data collection system. The National Society is also planning to incorporate PGI sessions into a joint Disaster Risk Management (DRM) training for Municipal Disaster Management Committees (MDMC).

Timor-Leste Red Cross will also develop PGI indicators that will then be incorporated into the organization's Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) tools to enable efficient progress tracking. In general, the action plans presented at the PGI

Workshop represent the National Society's proactive strategy to advance its PGI goals, working closely with the Australian Red Cross and the IFRC. The described action plans also highlight the National Society's commitment to enhance gender inclusion, safety precautions, and inclusion tactics within its disaster response operations.

ENABLING LOCAL ACTORS



Strategic and operational coordination

IFRC

IFRC has provided technical support to the National Society's to develop its decentralization plan and road map and on mapping its organizational needs. The IFRC has also supported the National Society in strengthening its organizational and response capacities to fulfil its humanitarian mandate, particularly in disaster management. The National Society is also working in collaboration with Australian Red Cross on the establishment of an Emergency Operations Centre. It works closely with partners in the areas of CVA, health, WASH, livelihoods, as well as to ensure the inclusion of young people and to mainstream CEA and PGI.

IFRC has also been facilitating peer-to-peer support between Timor-Leste Red Cross and Indonesian Red Cross (PMI) on cross-border initiatives, learning exchanges and training implementation between the two neighboring National Societies in the field of disaster management, health, and National Society development. IFRC also supported Timor-Leste Red Cross in further assessing and developing its digital engagement plan, following the implementation of the 2022 phase-1 global digital engagement capability initiative. This has built Timor-Leste Red Cross' digital capacity and enabled it to participate in global virtual conferences and maintain standard digital infrastructure. IFRC also provided training and coaching on Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting (PMER), particularly on strengthening reporting capacity as planned in the PMER log frame.

IFRC also supported Timor-Leste Red Cross on governance and management matters, as well as supporting them in the coordination of Movement partners, as requested by the National Society. The IFRC continues to provide support to the National Society as needed including for: (1) technical oversight and promoting the work of Timor-Leste Red Cross at a regional level; (2) technical support for programming areas (e.g. migration, cash/voucher assistance) and for management areas (e.g. human resources, data readiness/information management, PMER, membership services, financial sustainability), and other identified areas, and; (3) strategic directions for cooperation and collaboration with National Society and strategic partners in the Southeast Asia region, which include promoting the National Society's activities, increasing trust and access between the Timor-Leste Red Cross's work and that of other National Societies in the Asia Pacific region.

As part of the commitment to continue the Unified Planning approach, the IFRC had conducted extra work with Timor-Leste Red Cross to arrange a more collaborative planning process. The IFRC gathered reviews and feedback from the National Society and Participating National Societies regarding the Unified Planning process implementation in Timor Leste last year, and together with Timor-Leste Red Cross, laid out steps to improve collaboration around the planning process this year. This included starting to harmonize the planning process time frame between the IFRC and Timor-Leste Red Cross.

In February 2023, the Head of Delegation the IFRC Country Cluster Delegation for Indonesia, Brunei Darussalam, Singapore and Timor-Leste visited Timor-Leste to discuss issues related to project implementation and IFRC support to the governance and management of the Timor-Leste Red Cross. The Head of Delegation discussed general IFRC support to strengthen the positioning of the National Society in country and to strengthen the National Society's management with the Secretary General. The Head of Delegation also met the core team of the National Society to gather contextual information and discuss priorities for each sector and had a thorough discussion with the IFRC team in Dili to follow-up on the strategic interventions needed to support the Timor-Leste Red Cross.

IFRC membership

Several participating National Societies continued to support the National Society's programmes and operations during the reporting period. Amongst those, the key ones are the **Australian Red Cross, Italian Red Cross, Korean Red Cross, Netherlands Red Cross, and New Zealand Red Cross.**

The Australian Red Cross has focused its support on National Society Development (NSD) including finance, PMER, IT, and data management, on core costs, disaster preparedness, disaster response, PGI, and the continuation of the cross-border initiatives between Timor-Leste Red Cross and Indonesian Red Cross (PMI). Under health support, the Australian Red Cross has also continued to strengthen the National Society's capacity in epidemic and pandemic preparedness and capacity building through the 'public health in emergencies' training package.

The Italian Red Cross has also supported the National Society's NSD work focusing on youth, volunteering, and branch development and channeling funds through the IFRC. The IFRC's Capacity Building Fund has funded the National Society's Digital Engagement, which was concluded in the first semester of 2023, with support from the **New Zealand Red Cross** and IFRC.

The IFRC and the **American Red Cross** continued their collaboration in support of the Timor-Leste Red Cross's implementation of the Red Ready project (phase II), which runs until the end of 2023.

IFRC has also maintained the provision of technical support to Timor-Leste Red Cross to help the National Society strengthen its national level capacities and achieve measurable institutional capacity development advances, primarily against the Organizational Capacity Assessment and Certification (OCAC) and the Preparedness for Effective Response (PER) benchmarks. The support also aims to better achieve the project objectives and respond to local disasters (via the Red Cross Ready/RED Ready programme).

To maintain coordination with participating National Societies, Timor-Leste Red Cross supported by the IFRC, is committed to conduct at least two partner coordination meetings per year. The first meeting was conducted online in April 2023. In addition, the IFRC, on behalf of the National Society, also conducts regular update calls with partners to provide quick updates on projects and strategic coordination.

International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

The ICRC is working together with Timor-Leste Red Cross to disseminate International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and is supporting the National Society to further strengthen its capacity and services in the areas of restoring family links (RFL), management of the dead, safer access for humanitarian actions, communication, and vaccination campaigns.

External partners

As an auxiliary to the public authorities, Timor-Leste Red Cross has a strong relationship with the Timor-Leste Government. The National Society signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Secretary of State for Civil Protection outlining cooperation on disaster response and preparedness. In addition, the National Society was also a member of the national taskforce responding to COVID-19 and has strong relationships with the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education, cooperating with them closely on emergency response, emergency health and development of remote communities, through the ICBRR programme at the municipal level. The National Society received funding support from the Government of Timor-Leste for their disaster management, health, youth, organizational development, and branch development programmes, as well as operational support.

Timor-Leste Red Cross has built partnerships with various in-country organizations, including with Oxfam in support of their disaster management programme, with Partnership for Human Development (PHD) in support of its health programme, the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) for its DRR and health programmes, with Child Fund for its youth programme, and with Catholic Relief Service (CRS) for its nutrition programme. Since 2018, Timor-Leste Red Cross, with facilitation from the IFRC, has also been receiving support from the USAID Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA) to strengthen its National Society development capacity for response readiness, through the Red Ready project.



National Society Development

As part of improving Timor-Leste Red Cross's readiness system in procurement, a Supplier Management workshop was facilitated by the IFRC Procurement team at the country cluster delegation in Jakarta in February 2023. Following the gap identification, some recommendations were agreed, which include: (1) Reviewing current Logistics SOPs, including for Supplier Management, specific procurement procedures (e.g. for food procurement, international procurement, and standardization of national and branch procurement); (2) Identifying more suppliers for domestic and international procurement and; (3) Developing branch capacity through training and monitoring mechanisms to ensure efficiency of operational procurement and meeting procedures compliance at branch level.

In March 2023, an orientation on emergency fundraising was facilitated by the IFRC Asia Pacific Regional Office and Jakarta country cluster delegation. The orientation was attended by 13 Branch Coordinators and headquarter representatives from all departments, and it covered the principals of emergency fundraising and checklists for preparedness plans for an emergency fundraising initiative. From this, the National Society plans to develop an emergency fundraising guide and review its Resource Mobilization Strategy, to ensure it has sufficient capacity for emergency fundraising.

To ensure the safety and security of its volunteers, Timor-Leste Red Cross is currently drafting a Safety and Security Checklist, based on Indonesian Red Cross' (PMI's) Safety and Security Checklist for Volunteer Mobilization during Emergencies. Development of this checklist will ensure coordination with both the ICRC and IFRC approaches. The National Society has so far insured 731 volunteers (301 males and 430 females) through the IFRC Global Insurance for Accident scheme.

Timor-Leste Red Cross' priority on developing its PMER system has been worked on continuously since the start of the year. The National Society's PMER Guideline is being developed, with technical support from a consultant, and has helped programme managers to understand the project cycle, logframes, indicator tracking tables (ITTs) and to apply these tools in support of existing programmes, with coaching and mentoring from the national PMER team, and with the technical support from the IFRC. The National Society also used digital forms to collect data and report on the progress of implementation.



Humanitarian diplomacy

Changes have been made in Timor-Leste Red Cross's Communications division since the end of 2022. This has included the setting up of the National Society's Communications Strategy in 2023, to improve the coverage of the National Society's' work, both domestically and at regional level. Timor-Leste Red Cross is currently increasing its exposure domestically to increase public and government recognition and potential support. At the regional level, IFRC is also supporting the National Society by facilitating at least 1 tweet per week about its work to be published in APRO Communications team's Twitter (X) account.



Accountability and agility (cross-cutting)

Human Resources

The IFRC Human Resource Unit (HR) ensured that all staff contributed to and promoted a safe working environment during the reporting period and completed the IFRC's mandatory training, including the newest training on the learning platform. During the reporting period, two IFRC staff members based in Timor-Leste have undertaken external training to meet their personal development goals.

Together with Management, HR continued to improve the office working environment to be more healthy, agile and coordinated. IFRC continued to make available a mental health consultant for IFRC staff and ensured that all staff have proper knowledge of regulations on fraud and corruption, sexual harassment, exploitation, and abuse (this is signed

off and kept in the staff member's personnel file). In addition to paper-based documents, staff will have completed all certified online training for HR records.

Finance

A capacity and risk assessment, as part of the Working with Project Partner (WWPP) review process, was conducted by Timor-Leste Red Cross and the IFRC in November – December 2022 and is now being finalized in a Risk Assessment Report and Framework Funding Agreement (FFA) before the National Society transitions to that new modality. The WWPP Review Process is documenting the current capacities and internal controls of the National Society and will be followed by the setting up of internal and confidential risk mitigation measures to ensure adequate internal controls for programme implementation and reporting. A complete Framework Funding Agreement will replace the existing modality (Working Advance) and will be accompanied by a set of risk mitigation measures that are specific for Timor-Leste Red Cross to:

- Increase visibility in the way the IFRC reports expenditure incurred by Timor-Leste Red Cross
- Address present gaps in capacity and internal controls for programme implementation
- Strengthen IFRC's and Timor-Leste Red Cross's collective accountability to donors and stakeholders

A peer-to-peer learning session was carried out for 16 participants with Indonesian Red Cross (PMI), Malaysian Red Crescent Society (MRCS), Timor-Leste Red Cross, and IFRC national and regional staff, in March 2023 at the IFRC Asia Pacific Regional Office in Kuala Lumpur. This exchange provided an opportunity to get to know the WWPP modality and the key changes in the new system, and to meet and exchange learning around shared e-financial management mechanisms, themes, and systems. The workshop included exercises to practice using the WWPP reporting templates and other essential features.

In the area of capacity building, the IFRC supported Timor-Leste Red Cross in improving its capacity by facilitating a finance training in December 2022, covering several focus areas:

1. Introduction to Inherent Risk
2. Fraud and Corruption Prevention and Awareness
3. The importance of Internal Control and the impact on fund/cash management
4. Financial Management
5. Project Management and Reporting

The interactive training was attended by 25 National Society staff and five IFRC staff. At the end of the training, there was agreement on the reporting mechanisms for branches to send acquittals, working advance requests and forecasts to headquarters and the timeframe for the National Society to report to the IFRC and donors, in steps agreed by the participants themselves. This was useful to help the National Society address reporting delays from Branches to National Office and from the National Society to IFRC, participating National Societies, and back donors.

In the area of procurement management, the IFRC country cluster delegation's Corporate and Service Unit (CSU), Procurement Unit and Finance Monitoring and Development (FMD) section, provided procurement training for 25 National Society staff (19 male and 6 female) and five IFRC staff in February 2023. The study case was based on the National Society's own experience. Three study cases were selected on; (1) Procurement of goods (WASH material); (2) Procurement for venues and accommodation; (3) Procurement of services; (3) Quotation differences. The objectives of the training were to:

1. Improve and enhance the ability of Timor-Leste Red Cross staff to analyze procurement related transactions, to ensure they complied with the applicable procurement procedures (National Society and IFRC)
2. Increase knowledge of procurement procedures of both the National Society and IFRC
3. Practice of procurement services
4. Identify gaps in in project implementation and procurement
5. Synchronize procurement procedures between Timor-Leste Red Cross and IFRC

The lessons learned from this training and simulation were:

1. Only a few of National Society staff in the training understood the procurement procedures (National Society or IFRC)
2. Not all the goods and services procurement activities were managed by the National Society's Procurement Department
3. There were key challenges in requesting quotations from vendors, as not all suppliers in Timor Leste are willing to provide quotations
4. There is a need for hands-on procurement sessions for all National Society staff, especially for all project managers
5. The National Society needs to review their procurement procedures, in terms of the threshold for providing three quotations and tender processes and to monitor payment times to prevent delays in payments to vendors
6. IFRC needs to encourage Timor-Leste Red Cross to have a framework agreement with the travel agent to prevent repetitive ticket purchase

IFRC also continued to provide technical assistance to Timor-Leste Red Cross in fund/cash management. This was to provide assurances that cash/fund management will be well-safeguarded, appropriately managed and properly used, with the inclusion of core cost analyses as part of the cash/fund management and the setting up of a separate bank account for core costs coming from donors and projects. IFRC have also supported Timor-Leste Red Cross by providing accounting technical advice (an automated Excel-based template to calculate asset depreciation)

IFRC continues to have a regular finance coordination meeting with Timor-Leste Red Cross, to provide immediate and prompt advice and action to address financial management and working advance issues, financial reporting, overspending and balance management. Australian Red Cross also supported the National Society to enhance their finance development plan for 2023 with the focus on:

1. Enhancing finance structures and staff capacity
2. Enhancing the quality of reporting by upgrading the finance manual and checklist and disseminating this information
3. Improving the finance system by having MYOB cloud-based accounting software upgraded

Risk Management

IFRC, along with Australian Red Cross, are supporting Timor-Leste Red Cross to strengthen their PMER capacity, particularly their reporting capacity, with PMER sessions delivered to National Society programme staff. Australian Red Cross also mobilized their volunteers to support daily, in-country PMER activities. As part of its Risk Management support, the IFRC continues to support the National Society to manage overspend on project expenditure and to maintain finance monitoring templates. Later, the new MYOB/ABSS accounting software system will help Timor-Leste Red Cross to have an automated finance monitoring mechanism to manage financial risk.

Digital Transformation

Timor-Leste Red Cross is committed to strengthening its digital transformation efforts. With support from New Zealand Red Cross and the IFRC Capacity Building Fund, the National Society has started the Digital Engagement Capability initiative which will enable them to participate in global/regional online events and influence the regional agenda.

One of Timor-Leste Red Cross's main goals is to digitally link its 13 branches with its headquarters in order to promote decentralization. This digital engagement will assist the National Society to more rapidly exchange information and improve field reporting. In 2022, Timor-Leste Red Cross invested in improving its capacities to provide effective monitoring and reporting through training and the use of mobile data collection applications at branch level. The National Society is also implementing its IT Strategy in collaboration with the New Zealand Red Cross, Australian Red Cross, and the IFRC. This digital initiative will continue for the rest of 2023, with a focus on reducing the digital divide between headquarters and the branches.

Digital transformation will also benefit the National Society's external communications and outreach. The IFRC has provided technical support to Timor-Leste Red Cross to improve its capacity to produce timely content across multiple platforms and to identify gaps and requirements on to improve the relevant communications skills (content writing,

social media, documentation, and audio-visual software). It is expected that this collaboration will provide practical skills to help staff and volunteers apply their learning through their work in communities. A combination of theory and practical work will help to enhance their ability to produce compelling communications outputs. In addition, this will help Timor-Leste Red Cross increase their visibility as the leading humanitarian organization in Timor-Leste. In 2023, the IFRC country cluster delegation in Jakarta used its digital form to support procurement, finance and administration activities within the National Society and real-time processes can now be monitored through this digital form.



The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) is the world's largest humanitarian network, with 191 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and around 15 million volunteers. Our volunteers are present in communities before, during and after a crisis or disaster. We work in the most hard to reach and complex settings in the world, saving lives and promoting human dignity. We support communities to become stronger and more resilient places where people can live safe and healthy lives, and have opportunities to thrive.

DATA SCOPE AND LIMITATIONS

- **Timeframe and alignment:** The reporting timeframe for this overview is covering the period from 1 January to 30 June 2023. However, due to the diversity of the IFRC and differences in fiscal years, this coverage may not fully align for some National Societies. Mid-year reporting data may have been based on estimations, with plans to submit more robust numbers at the annual reporting stage.
- **Missing data and breakdowns:** National Societies have diverse data collection systems and processes that may not align with the standardized indicators. Data may not be available for some indicators, for some National Societies. This may lead to inconsistencies across different reporting tools as well as potential under or over-estimation of the efforts led by all.
- **Reporting bias:** The data informing this Federation-wide overview is self-reported by each National Society (or its designated support entity) and which is the owner and gatekeeper, and responsible for accuracy and updating. IFRC tries to triangulate the data provided by the National Societies with previous data and other data in the public domain.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- [IFRC Global Plan and Country Plans](#)
- [Subscribe for updates](#)
- [Donor response](#) on IFRC website
- [Live Disaster Response Emergency Fund \(DREF\)](#) data
- Operational information: [IFRC GO platform](#)
- National Society data: [IFRC Federation-wide Databank and Reporting System](#)
- [Evaluations database](#)

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Timor-Leste Red Cross

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