

2021



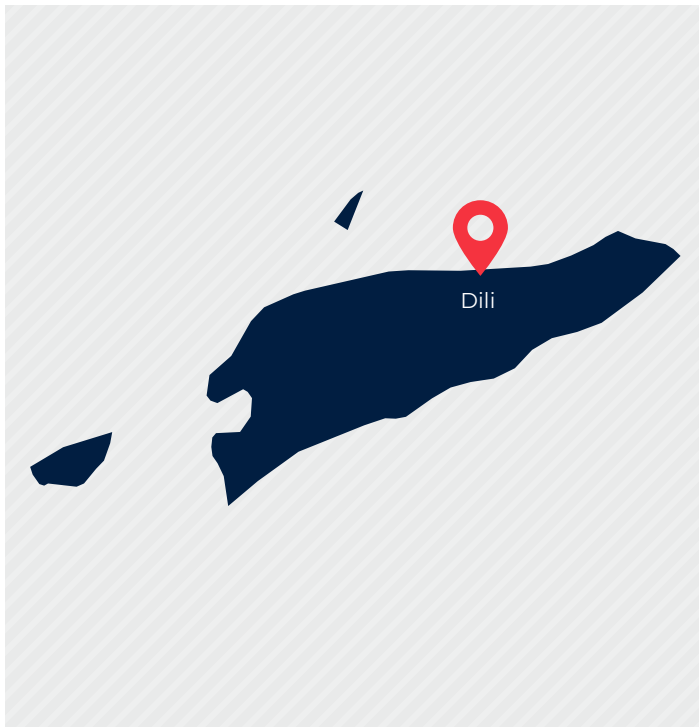
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TIMOR LESTE

IFRC COUNTRY OFFICE

Appeal number
MAAID000

Funding requirement in Swiss francs
1.2 million



Branches

15



Staff

183



Volunteers

4,700



People to be reached

100,000

This document details the IFRC's support in areas agreed upon with the relevant National Society. The IFRC seeks resources to carry out this country/cluster plan listed here as funding requirements.



SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

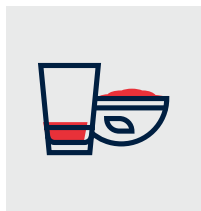
Population

1.33 million

2019 Human Development Index Ranking

141

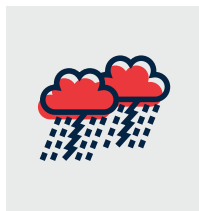
Vulnerabilities



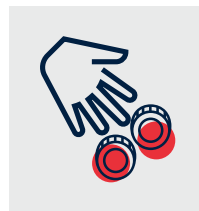
Food insecurity



Floods



Tropical storms



Poverty



Disease outbreaks



Political instability

Since its full independence in 2002 after centuries' long occupation and devastating conflicts, Timor-Leste has been making remarkable progress in peacebuilding and nation-building. However, the country's political situation has been unpredictable, and a considerable debate on who has the constitutional rights to govern creates doubt.

Timor-Leste has made economic progress since the 2017–2018 economic recession. Still, failure to approve a state budget for 2020 renews political uncertainty, and the global COVID-19 pandemic has considerably weighed down prospects.

Inadequate services and facilities hinder people in Timor-Leste. Only 63 per cent of people can access electricity, and the rates are even lower in rural areas. Food insecurity remains widespread around the country, and 50 per cent of children suffer from stunting, a form of chronic malnutrition.

People in Timor-Leste have poor and unequal access to health services in particular, and there's a shortage of doctors and technical expertise. Malaria is highly endemic in all districts.

Timor-Leste is a disaster-prone country. Floods, landslides, and heavy winds are the most common natural hazards in Timor-Leste, disrupting the land transport system by destroying bridges, washing out roads and damaging buildings. Droughts are becoming more frequent during the dry season, exacerbating the country's food security problem. Climate change will further increase the frequency and intensity of seasonal droughts and flooding.

Most people in the country have access to a basic water service, but less than half have access to basic sanitation services. The key bottlenecks relate to institutional capacity and an absence of technical support services, accountability, and incentives for sustaining water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services.

DE TIMOR-LESTE



© Cruz Vermelha de Timor-Leste

ROLE OF THE NATIONAL SOCIETY



Established

2000

Despite its 20 years of relatively short institutional history, Cruz Vermelha de Timor-Leste (CVTL) has been growing at a remarkably rapid speed, especially in its organisational capacity development.

Present in all districts of Timor-Leste, the National Society is making a significant contribution in tackling the humanitarian and development issues in the communities. It is currently in the process of endorsing its Strategic Plan (2020–2024) which focuses on four areas:

1. Strengthening the resilience of communities and responding to the needs of the most vulnerable people.
2. Saving lives and supporting recovery from disasters and crises.
3. Promoting humanitarian values and a culture of peace.
4. Developing a strong, sustainable, and accountable organisation.

Over the past five years, the Integrated Community-Based Risk Reduction (ICBRR) programme has become the signature approach the National Society uses to support remote communities with their development aspirations. Through this programme, the National Society uses its limited human and financial resources to support remote communities that often fall outside the net of government services. It provides them with the tools, resources and knowledge they need to address the multi-layered risks they face. The programme pulls together technical expertise from the different teams within the National Society, including disaster management, health, youth and livelihoods as well as the support of Movement partners. It has also provided a valuable avenue for donors and partners to coordinate their support to the National Society.

The National Society is meeting its recently revised constitutional requirements, which call for of a minimum of two female governing board members, as well as having one male and one female youth representative on the board.

MEMBERSHIP COORDINATION AND MOVEMENT FOOTPRINT

Movement coordination

Name of Partner National Society	Climate	Crises	Health	Migration	Inclusion	Engaged	Accountable	Trusted
Australian Red Cross		✓			✓	✓		✓
New Zealand Red Cross		✓				✓	✓	✓
Republic of Korea Red Cross	✓	✓	✓		✓			
ICRC					✓	✓		

The Timor-Leste National Society's Movement has three main components: The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and other partner National Societies.

Several National Societies support the Timor-Leste National Society's programmes and operations. Principal partners are the National Societies of Australia, Italy, New Zealand, Korea and Japan.

The Italian Red Cross supports the National Society to work on its development, which focuses on youth, volunteer, and branch development channelling funds through the IFRC. The Japanese Red Cross Society supports the National Society's first aid programme.

In coordination with the IFRC, the New Zealand Red Cross supports the National Society to develop its capacity through strengthening its fundraising skills, leadership and governance, human resources management, volunteer management and branch development. The New Zealand Red Cross also supports the Timor-Leste National Society's ICBRR project. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the Republic of Korea has also expressed an interest in supporting the ICBRR programme.

The Australian Red Cross is focusing its support on preparation for disaster, protection, gender and inclusion, cross-border initiatives, and the National Society's development.

The IFRC and the American Red Cross support nine National Societies, including the Timor-Leste National Society, through phase two of the Red Ready project, which runs until 2023. This project will build the capacity, readiness and resilience of the National Society (and other National Societies in the Asia Pacific region) to respond to local disasters. The IFRC will provide technical support for the project.

The IFRC will also facilitate peer-to-peer support with the Indonesian Red Cross. The Timor-Leste National Society and the Indonesian Red Cross have agreed to increase humanitarian cooperation, specifically along the border area of Indonesia and Timor-Leste.

Also, the ICRC is working with the National Society to promote international humanitarian law, help people who have lost contact with their family as a result of a crisis, and improve safer access for humanitarian actions.



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CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENTAL CRISES

Funding requirement in Swiss francs
57,000

People to be reached
7,000



Timor-Leste is highly vulnerable to climate change. Temperatures will rise, rainfall will increase overall, while in some parts of the country, there will be lower rainfall. Lower rainfall will then increase the frequency and intensity of drought events. These changes will have implications for the environment, health, and food security of people who live there.

There will be a greater risk of crop failure and less suitable land for farming due to salt-water intrusion, reduced biodiversity and an overall reduction in water supply and quality. On top of that, there will be an increased risk of disasters related to natural hazards, including floods and landslides.

In addition to climate change, the country faces a range of other environmental challenges. Deforestation, mangrove depletion and land degradation are widespread due to a mixture of logging, over-harvesting and unsustainable farming practices. Water is polluted due to sewerage, livestock, sedimentation and poor waste management. People are not using marine resources sustainably, and oil extraction is posing a risk to marine and coastal life.

The IFRC will support the National Society to reach more remote communities that cannot easily access government services. The National Society will review its current approaches to ensure that they are climate-smart. Areas may include nature-based solutions for reducing risk and participatory assessments for safe shelter awareness to build shelters that reduce climate risk.

Central to the National Society's ICBRR programme is the understanding that communities' knowledge of the climate risks they face is critical to reducing vulnerability. The National Society will support communities to recognise risks and will facilitate a process that will allow them to identify locally-grown actions that can help reduce their vulnerabilities.

The National Society will also support communities to adopt sustainable agricultural practices using permaculture and water-saving irrigation approaches. It will provide communities with training on sustainable fishing practices and, where appropriate, implement small-scale activities to support environmental protection.



**148
million**
Expected rainfall
increase by 2050



1.7
Expected temperature
increase in degrees
Celsius by 2050

ACTIVITIES

- The National Society will conduct vulnerability and capacity assessments in collaboration with local communities.
- The IFRC will support the National Society to ensure that its current approaches are climate-smart.
- The National Society will support communities to adopt sustainable agricultural practices.
- The National Society will provide communities with technical and financial resources to support them to implement local actions.

EVOLVING CRISES AND DISASTERS

Funding requirement in Swiss francs

23,300

People to be reached

4,000



It is likely that hazards such as floods, landslides, heavy winds, drought, cyclones and earthquakes will cause future humanitarian emergencies in Timor-Leste. These hazards will have adverse effects on water availability, crop productivity, nutrition, livelihoods and incomes, as well as people's health.

At times of disaster and crisis, food, shelter, water, sanitation, and hygiene are essential needs of the community. People are being affected by the secondary impacts of COVID-19, both in terms of livelihoods and access to food. Disasters will compound these impacts. They will make already poverty-stricken households even more vulnerable.

A range of developmental challenges will exacerbate the impact of these risks, including high unemployment and poverty, and poor environmental management. Other challenges include increasing rates of stunting and malnutrition, high infant mortality and poor access to health services.

The National Society will support communities to identify the risks they face as well as their capacities to address those risks. The results of vulnerability and capacity assessments will develop community action plans to outline low-cost concrete measures that communities can undertake to reduce their vulnerability to various disaster and health hazards. The National Society will also work with schools to run awareness sessions on climate change to prepare students to respond to disasters.

The IFRC will introduce forecast-based financing to the National Society, which is an approach that enables access to humanitarian funding for anticipatory action to crises.

The National Society will establish safe and accessible trusted information systems for communities with the support of the IFRC. These systems will encourage communities to participate in designing programmes and share their feedback. The IFRC will support the National Society to develop its capacity in feedback collection and management.

The National Society will also hold educational sessions in schools on reducing disaster risk, run drills and simulation exercises to support communities and the local government to strengthen their preparation and response to a disaster.

The IFRC will support the National Society to strengthen components of its response system and enhance its capacity to manage finances, mobilise emergency funds, and improve logistics and procurement. It will also support the National Society to ensure its health and WASH services are of high quality.



50%
of children are
underweight



3
Continental plates
liable to cause
earthquakes in
Timor Leste

➔ ACTIVITIES

- The National Society will recruit students as volunteers at the community level.
- If appropriate, the IFRC will facilitate initial discussions on forecast-based financing with Movement partners and external stakeholders.
- The IFRC will provide policies and training to the National Society related to disaster management with a focus on cash readiness and cash and voucher assistance.
- The IFRC will provide additional support to the National Society as required, for example, in establishing Emergency Operations Centres and in undertaking pandemic preparedness planning.



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GROWING GAPS IN HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Funding requirement in Swiss francs

470,000

People to be reached

11,000



One of the problems faced by the health sector in Timor-Leste is lack of health knowledge, particularly among women. This issue leads to a high prevalence of preventable communicable disease such as malaria, tuberculosis, and diarrhoeal diseases. There is a lack of knowledge of HIV/AIDS and an absence of a systematic or reliable surveillance system. There are also rising incidences of non-communicable diseases and a high prevalence of malnutrition, iodine and vitamin A deficiency.

Maternal and child malnutrition are very common. Yet many communities have a limited understanding of basic health and nutrition. An estimated 80 per cent of children have parasitic intestinal infections with associated nutritional deficiencies. Inadequate water supply and sanitation systems further hamper these poor health outcomes.

To protect and improve the health and wellbeing of communities, the IFRC will support the National Society to conduct community perception surveys to assess the success of its approaches to health services. To support remote villages to identify their health priorities, the National Society will deliver community activities such as first aid training, support for maternal health and reproductive and family planning, and training in nutrition.

The IFRC will support the National Society to review and develop its existing commercial first aid model to encourage financial sustainability.

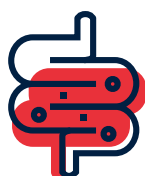
Also, the IFRC will support the National Society to deliver training to branch volunteers on epidemic control in its COVID-19 operation and in border areas within the cross-border collaboration with the Indonesian Red Cross. The IFRC will support the National Society to develop its national strategies for epidemic/pandemic preparedness and minimum standards of public health in emergency response. In the COVID-19 operation and other pandemics and epidemics, the National Society will provide communities with safe water and emergency sanitation.

The National Society will support villages to conduct water surveys and construct systems to enable them to access sustainable, safe water supplies. It will support vulnerable households to build their own latrines and train community members in the operation and maintenance of facilities. Finally, the National Society will run door-to-door campaigns to discuss good hygiene behaviour.



498

Incidences of
tuberculosis per
100,000 people



80%

Children with
intestinal infections

TARGET 1

The National Society's WASH programme will support at least 2,000 people affected by a disaster.



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MIGRATION AND IDENTITY



Internal migrants in Timor-Leste constitute a significant proportion of the population. Nearly 17.7 per cent of Timorese people have left their place of birth to settle in another district. This significantly outstrips international migration away from the country, as the number of Timorese international migrants only stood at 23,190 in 2017. In the capital city of Dili, internal migrants constitute around 37 per cent of the population, and just over half of these are women. The primary motivating factors for rural-urban migration are education and work. Other reasons include marriage, following family and conflict.

Timor-Leste is both a country of origin and destination for people being trafficked for forced labour and sexual exploitation. The border between Timor-Leste and the Province of East Nusa Tenggara in Indonesia is one of the common areas for irregular movements. Timorese women and girls are particularly vulnerable to being trafficked to Indonesia and other countries for domestic work.

Positively, the country has contingency plans in place to address the impacts of internal displacement and has ratified several relevant conventions and protocols designed to tackle human rights issues that can arise with migration. However, there are still gaps, including a lack of migration data and a lack of policy or legislation to prevent the unethical recruitment of migrant workers.

Although, migration is not a priority under the National Society's Strategic Plan, through the partnership on cross-border collaboration with the Indonesian Red Cross, the two National Societies have agreed to work together in the area of migration. The focus of this cooperation will be on the Timor-Leste – Indonesia migration access routes. The operation will involve supporting branches and communities to respond to the challenges of migration between the two countries.

The IFRC will facilitate discussions and exchanges between the National Societies to articulate activities for cooperation and peer-to-peer-learning. In addition, the IFRC will promote the National Society's leadership in discussions regarding whether it intends to develop further institutional direction and policy on migration and will support this if there is demand.



23,190

Timorese international migrants

➔ ACTIVITIES

- The IFRC will support the National Society to establish plans and activities to respond to the challenges of migration through the partnership on cross-border collaboration with the Indonesian Red Cross.
- The IFRC will engage the National Society leadership in discussions to develop further institutional direction and policy on migration



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VALUES, POWER, AND INCLUSION

Funding requirement in Swiss francs

15,500

People to be reached

2,700



Timor-Leste has the youngest population in the Asia Pacific Region with a median age of 20.8. A household survey in 2016 showed 41 per cent of people are under the age of 15, while only 9 per cent are over 60 years old. One in five men and women aged 15–49 have no education, while 75 per cent of women and 82 per cent of men aged 15–49 are literate. However, 20 per cent of people aged 15–24 were neither employed nor in school.

Although Timor-Leste is witnessing a burgeoning of its young population, it provides limited services and opportunities, especially for their participation in economic growth due to lack of industry and very few jobs. Timor-Leste's constitutions and laws guarantee gender equality in social, economic, and political opportunities. However, violence against women is prevalent, and women have more difficulty accessing financial resources.

The National Society will contribute to a positive change in communities, focusing primarily on young people. As such, the IFRC will support the National Society to mentor and train young people to become agents of change in their communities through healthy life workshops. The workshops will use music and drama to support youths to share health messages in their communities in an accessible way.

Also, the IFRC will facilitate the training of young people to educate their peers, through the National Society's Youth as Agents of Behavioural Change initiative. At a regional level, the National Society will play an active role in the Southeast Asia Youth Network.

The National Society will strengthen its training to staff on gender-based violence, by integrating a community engagement and accountability approach. It will use this approach to listen to communities' needs, feedback and complaints.

With the support of the Red Ready project phase two and technical support from the IFRC, the National Society will ensure it carries out a comprehensive protection, gender and inclusion (PGI) approach across all its operations and programmes. The IFRC will also support the adaptation of the PGI minimum standards to the local context and language.

TARGET 1

A flagship programme to scale Youth as Agents of Behavioural Change is created.

TARGET 2

The PGI minimum standards are adapted across all operations and programs.

TARGET 3

Measures to prevent and respond to sexual and gender-based violence are added in all program plans and activities.



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ENABLER 1

ENGAGED WITH RENEWED INFLUENCE, INNOVATIVE AND DIGITALLY TRANSFORMED WITH GREATER EMPHASIS ON NATIONAL SOCIETY DEVELOPMENT

Funding requirement in Swiss francs

40,000

Together with the New Zealand Red Cross and Australian Red Cross, the IFRC will offer support to the Timor-Leste National Society to ensure all its processes align with the National Society's 2020–2024 Strategic Plan. The IFRC will also support the National Society in its dialogue with the Movement partners.

The IFRC will provide support to the National Society, again, in collaboration with New Zealand Red Cross and Australian Red Cross, to substantially widen its involvement and leadership of civil society and other coalitions. It will prioritise supporting the National Society to strengthen its partnership management capacity, focusing on the development and analysis of a partner database. A partner mapping process will provide the National Society with information that will support its in-country networking and help build new partnerships among humanitarian organisations in the country.

The National Society and the IFRC will each use their social media platforms to strengthen their collaboration on amplifying messages about the National Society's activities and its auxiliary role to the government. The IFRC will also support the National Society to develop important messages encouraging communities to actively participate in the decision-making processes of programmes delivered by the National Society.

To support the National Society's advocacy role, the IFRC will provide technical support on the development of a community feedback dashboard. The dashboard will enable the National Society to develop evidence-based advocacy campaigns.

The limited access to Timor-Leste due to the COVID-19 pandemic showed the vital need for the National Society to increase its digital technology capacity. It will start using a cloud-based platform through peer-to-peer support and learning from other National Societies. The IFRC will support the National Society to develop its ability in mobile data collection, management and analysis. The National Society will ensure that all data is protected and secure.

ACTIVITIES

- The IFRC and other Movement partners will support the National Society in its advocacy role in the country, based on its auxiliary position and the humanitarian agenda of the Movement.
- The National Society will generate opportunities for staff and volunteers to increase their knowledge and skills in recognition of the humanitarian needs in Timor-Leste.
- The National Society will train staff in digital security risks and data protection.



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ENABLER 2

ACCOUNTABLE WITH AN AGILE MANAGEMENT AND A RENEWED FINANCING MODEL WITH GREATER EMPHASIS ON NATIONAL SOCIETY DEVELOPMENT

Funding requirement in Swiss francs

425,000

The IFRC will work as one organisation globally, delivering what it promises to National Societies, volunteers and the communities they work with, as effectively and efficiently as possible. The IFRC will analyse and monitor the skills development of its staff, not only through setting objectives but also through observations, review of appraisals, surveys and 360 discussions. It will also support the deployment of its staff members to other IFRC or National Society offices as part of the staff development plan.

The IFRC will register risks and design a strategy to mitigate the risk of fraud and corruption, sexual harassment, exploitation and abuse. It will regularly monitor changes in the risk register according to the Timor-Leste context, to support all staff to understand and endorse the IFRC code of conducts and regulations. It will deliver online training and have regular discussions on policies and procedures.

Also, the IFRC will expand the provision of resources to the Timor-Leste National Society to invest in development. Together with the New Zealand Red Cross, it will provide support to the National Society to access any grants or awards related to its humanitarian programmes. It will also support the National Society to review its proposals for such grants and support the implementation of the programme upon its approval.

In addition, the IFRC will provide support to the National Society to participate in regional and global platforms to share fundraising knowledge. This opportunity will support the National Society to increase its understanding of worldwide fundraising trends so it can adjust them to suit Timor-Leste.

● TARGET 1

IFRC staff in Timor-Lest have understood, applied, and endorsed core red cross competencies and values.

● TARGET 2

HR Risk Register is developed

● TARGET 3

The resources to invest in National Society Development is pooled.

● TARGET 4

The IFRC is able to generate regional/global fundraising business insights for the secretariat and the National Society

ENABLER 3

TRUSTED BY COMMUNITIES, OWNED AND VALUED BY THE MEMBERSHIP WITH GREATER EMPHASIS ON NATIONAL SOCIETY DEVELOPMENT

Funding requirement in Swiss francs

142,000

The IFRC will provide support to the National Society to become the trusted partner of choice for local humanitarian action. It will ensure that all support is in line with the National Society's Strategic Plan. It will also provide technical support to enable the National Society to build its capacity through streamlining its planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting practices.

To improve its financial sustainability, the IFRC will support the National Society to set up a roadmap that aligns with the Red Ready phase two funding support in 2021. The principal development areas will be:

1. Strengthening the understanding, skills and knowledge of the National Society's staff, including technical training to support staff using its financial system and management.
2. Strengthening financial management, focusing on improving reporting and finalising manuals to include financial management in an emergency.
3. Developing financial risk and opportunity analysis, balancing the National Society's Strategic Plan and humanitarian strategy.

The IFRC will support the National Society to initiate a supplier management system to immediately access and manage suppliers or services necessary for humanitarian response. The IFRC will also support the National Society to build its ability to fundraise during emergencies. This will allow the National Society to raise funds and other resources to carry out operations in the event of a disaster at a local level.

The IFRC will support the National Society to strengthen the mechanisms that protect volunteers and support their psychosocial well-being. It will support the further development of the volunteer training manual and database so that the National Society can standardise training of new volunteers.

Membership coordination is a core part of the IFRC's work. The Indonesian Red Cross and the National Society will review the action plan for their peer-to-peer cooperation programme, with support from the IFRC and Australian Red Cross. The IFRC will support the National Society to strengthen its engagement with Reference Centres, Hubs and Labs to capture evidence and share knowledge.

The National Society will develop guidelines for community engagement and accountability to improve its existing methods and benchmarking in engaging communities across all programmes and operations.

TARGET 1

A road map of financial sustainability is developed

TARGET 2

A supplier management system is established

TARGET 3

CEA Guidelines and Benchmark in programs and operations are established.

TARGET 4

Shared leadership initiatives with Reference Centers, Hubs and Labs are implemented



The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) is the world's largest humanitarian network, with **192 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies** and around **14 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.

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