



Timor-Leste: Floods

UN Resident Coordinator's Office (RCO)

Situation Report No. 4 (As of 12 April 2021)

This report is produced by RCO Timor-Leste in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It is issued by UN Timor-Leste. It covers the period from 10 to 12 April 2021. This follows the previous reports - Flash Updates No. 1 to 3 – issued during the week of 5 April. The next report will be issued on or around 15 April 2021.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Following the Government's declaration of a state of calamity in Dili on 8 April, several humanitarian donors have provided additional humanitarian funding to support the flood response, including United States, China, Australia, Japan and New Zealand.
- According to the latest official figures (12 April) from the Ministry of State Administration, which leads the Task Force for Civil Protection and Natural Disaster Management, a total of 25,022 households have reportedly been affected by the floods across all 13 municipalities. Of whom, 46% - or 11,558 households – are in Dili municipality.
- According to the same report, 4,384 houses across all municipalities have reportedly been destroyed or damaged.
- In Dili – the worst-affected municipality – 12,378 temporary displaced persons are in 43 evacuation facilities across the municipality.
- To date, a total of 46 fatalities (including 10 who are still missing and presumed dead) have been recorded.



Source: Gov't. of Timor-Leste
The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Map created by UNOCHA

13	25,022	4,384	43	46
Municipalities affected (out of 13 municipalities)	Total affected households across the country	Houses destroyed or damaged across the country	Evacuation facilities in Dili	Fatalities

SITUATION OVERVIEW

Heavy rains across the country from 29 March to 4 April have resulted in flash floods and landslides affecting all 13 municipalities in Timor-Leste to varying degrees, with the capital Dili and the surrounding low-lying areas the worst affected. To date, a total of 46 fatalities (including 10 missing, presumed dead) have been recorded in Dili (22), Ainaro (10), Aileu (1), Baucau (1), Covalima (2), Manatuto (6), and Viqueque (4).

According to the latest official figures, a total of 25,022 households across the country have been affected; of those, 46% - or 11,558 households – are in Dili municipality. 4,384 houses across all municipalities have been destroyed or damaged.

The latest official figures also indicate a total of 43 evacuation facilities in Dili municipality, where 12,378 people – or 3,010 households – are temporary sheltered. Urgent needs in these evacuation facilities are: WASH facilities, food and drinking water, non-food items, and medicine.

With the strict lockdown in Dili municipality temporary suspended on 9 April in view of the ongoing flood response, as of 12 April, there are 525 active cases of COVID-19. The risk of further spread of COVID-19 remains high.

GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

On 8 April, the Government declared a state of calamity in Dili for a period of 30 days and requested for international assistance.

The Secretariat of State for Civil Protection has developed a Flood Response Strategy, setting priorities for weeks 1 to 3 (4-24 April) of the emergency response.

The Government has called for an Emergency Development Partners' Meeting on 13 April, co-chaired by the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation. The objective of the meeting is for the Government and humanitarian partners to share information and to ensure effective coordination of humanitarian assistance.

FUNDING

A number of humanitarian donors (including Australia, China, EU, Indonesia, Japan, New Zealand, Portugal, USA) have been providing support to the flood response, including through repurposing existing resources.

Many humanitarian donors are on standby to consider and provide additional humanitarian assistance, with a number of donors committing additional funding over the past few days. There have also been private donations from both within and outside Timor-Leste in solidarity with the affected people of Timor-Leste.

Humanitarian funding mobilized to date include:

- USA/USAID – USD 100,000
- China – USD 100,000
- Australia – AUD 7 million (approx. USD 5.34 million)
- New Zealand – NZD 100,000 (approx. USD 70,466)
- Japan/JICA – in-kind contribution of 5,000 blankets
- Australia and New Zealand Bank (ANZ) - USD 50,000

UN humanitarian agencies have repurposed existing resources to respond to the flood emergency, as well as mobilized additional resources through corporate emergency response funds. To date, nearly USD 1.2 million have been either repurposed or newly mobilized from the UN system for the flood response.

Reports on social media indicate that there are many private appeals for the flood response, and it would be important for the Government to be informed of the incoming support through private sector's appeals.

Humanitarian funding requests are made individually by humanitarian partners. As additional resources are mobilized, monitoring funding flows will be important for a coordinated humanitarian response.

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

In support of the Government efforts, the humanitarian partners continued to provide humanitarian assistance to meet the lifesaving needs of the affected people in Dili municipality and other parts of the country. The focus of the humanitarian assistance has started to expand from the temporary displaced in the evacuation facilities to include the temporary displaced outside of these facilities, who are equally at-risk.

In line with the Secretariat of State for Civil Protection's Flood Response Strategy, the humanitarian partners are preparing to support those in the evacuation facilities to be able to return safely to their homes.

During the reporting period, the Government and the humanitarian partners have started to reach the flood-affected communities that are marooned in Tasi Tolu with life-saving assistance, including access to safe water and provision of food and non-food items. The humanitarian partners have also started to support flood-affected households in municipalities outside of Dili.

Humanitarian partners (UN and NGOs) are jointly supporting the Secretariat of State for Civil Protection to conduct three assessments, which will all commence on 13 April, namely:

1. Needs assessment of 38 evacuation facilities to identify barriers for families to return home (updated Displacement Tracking Matrix rapid assessment)
2. Multi-sectoral assessment to establish *suco*-level damage and needs
3. Household assessment to collect information on household-level damage and needs

The findings of these assessments will further inform the response priorities of the Government and humanitarian partners. The importance of disaggregated data (by gender, age, disabilities, etc.) is stressed, for the response to address the specific needs of groups particularly vulnerable to the impact of disasters.

Shelter

Sector Lead & Members:

IOM, Secretariat of State for Civil Protection, CVTL, IFRC, Mercy Corps, CARE, Caritas, Plan International, Oxfam

Needs:

- Based on the rapid Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) site assessment of 13 evacuation facilities, the most urgent needs included WASH, food & water, non-food items (NFI) and medicine.
- There is a need for supplies including non-food items for safe temporary shelter, for people whose houses were partially damaged or totally destroyed.
- There is a need for cleaning materials for houses that have been flooded.
- Construction materials are needed to repair or rebuild houses.
- There is a need for support to monitor and assist the returns; close evacuation facilities; and, address the living conditions and needs of those facing protracted displacement in evacuation facilities.
- There is a need to ensure that the toilets in the evacuation facilities are safe and well-lit.

Response:

- Shelter sector partners identified ways to strengthen coordination of the response and capture the immediate needs at each evacuation facility, with the aim to provide the Secretariat of State for Civil Protection with a gap analysis to identify priority needs that are yet to be met.
- Shelter sector partners continued to distribute non-food items and supplies for safe temporary shelter to people whose houses were partially damaged or totally destroyed.
- Shelter sector partners continued to distribute cleaning materials to affected people to clean their flooded houses.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Absence of gender and age disaggregated data.
- Women not always included in the administration structures of the evacuation facilities.

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Evacuation Facilities assessed as a part of rapid Displacement Tracking Matrix

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Sector Lead & Members:

Ministry of Health, Ministry of Public Works/BEE Timor-Leste, Dili Municipality, UNICEF, CVTL, Mercy Corps, Plan International, Partisipa, UNDP, WFP, WHO, Private Sector, WaterAid, JICA, ADRA, FHTL, EWB

Needs:

- With cases of diarrhea starting to be reported in the evacuation facilities and the impact of temporary displacement on food and nutrition security, there is an immediate need to establish a referral system for severe/critical cases of malnutrition.
- In the longer-term, there is a need to maintain the flood-affected people's access to routine WASH and nutrition services.

Response:

- WASH sector partners provided emergency WASH services and increased access to water and sanitation of flood-affected people, including installation of water tanks, handwashing stations and mobile toilets in the evacuation facilities

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Water Tanks installed in evacuation facilities and in affected communities

and in public areas. Over the reporting period, with WASH sector partners' support, the marooned communities in Tasi Tolu were provided with access to safe water.

- WASH sector partners provided emergency WASH supplies.
- WASH sector partners strengthened communication for behavior and social change around good hygiene practices, breastfeeding in emergencies, and balanced diet.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Insufficient data and information on the affected population, including lack of disaggregated data.
- Limited availability of required WASH supplies in the local market and high cost of those that are available.
- Funding gap for both immediate and longer-term response, including for disaster mitigation measures.

Food Security

Sector Lead & Members:

WFP, FAO, UNDP, UNICEF, World Bank, Mercy Corps, CRS, World Fish, Care International, TOMAK, Oxfam, World Vision, Plan International, Blue Ventures, AVANSA, Child Fund, Caritas, CCT, The Asia Foundation, ADRA, MDF, AI-Com, Ministry of Agriculture, Secretariat of State for Civil Protection, SAPIP, NLC, Embassy of New Zealand, Embassy of Australia, JICA, USAID, Embassy of Portugal, GIZ, EU, ADB, Embassy of Japan, KOICA, Embassy of China

20,000+

Meals provided to the affected population

Needs:

- There is an urgent need to meet the food and nutrition security needs of the vulnerable groups – namely under-5 children and pregnant and lactating women – who are temporary displaced.
- According to preliminary data and assessment by the Ministry of Agriculture covering 6 affected municipalities, 1,600 ha of rice and 295 ha of maize crops are reportedly damaged in those 6 municipalities alone. This would have a negative impact on the prevalence of food insecurity during the next lean season.

Response:

- AHP partners (CARE, CARITAS, Oxfam, Plan International, World Vision) have distributed food, repurposing their existing resources, to the flood-affected households in Dili and other municipalities.
- Secretariat of State for Civil Protection and MSSI distributed food (rice) to the flood-affected (and COVID-19 lockdown affected) households in Dili and selected municipalities, with WFP providing logistics and operational support.
- UNDP provided a total of 11,630 hot nutritious meals between 4 and 11 April to an estimated 8,652 people in Dili municipalities, both in the evacuation facilities and out in the communities. A number of restaurant businesses and other entities also provided meals to affected people.
- UNDP also provided rice (10kg) to 100 flood-affected households in Baucau.
- Food Security sector members are supporting the Ministry of Agriculture to conduct a food damage assessment to assess the impact of the floods on harvest, particularly in the municipalities outside of Dili. The impact on the next harvest of maize is of concern.

Gaps & Constraints:

- COVID-19 “sanitary fences” and restriction on movement between municipalities, and its impact on movement of food commodities.
- Shortage of super cereal and nutritional supplements for pregnant and lactating women.

Nutrition

Sector Lead & Members:

Ministry of Health, Ministry of Agriculture, Maluk Timor, Fundsaun Alola, PHD, TOMAK, Hiam Health, HAI, CWS, World Vision, Child Fund, WHO, WFP, UNICEF

Needs:

- The priority need is to provide access to quality curative nutrition services through the most appropriate modalities, systematic identification, referral, and treatment of acutely malnourished cases in collaboration with the Health sector.

- There is a need to strengthen the quality and scale of preventative nutrition services for most vulnerable groups through promotion of appropriate infant and young child feeding practices, micronutrient supplementation and optimal maternal nutrition.

Response:

- In collaboration with the Nutrition Department and Dili Municipality Health Services, the Nutrition sector partners conducted nutrition screening for children 0-59 months in all evacuation facilities using CHC catchment area. Data is not yet available regarding the classification of nutrition status of these children.
- Nutrition sector partners continued to support MoH to monitor the distribution of breastmilk substitutes in the evacuation facilities and take necessary actions including onsite counseling. Data is not yet available regarding the number of mothers counselled for exclusive breastfeeding.
- Nutrition sector partners continued to collaborate with the Ministry of Agriculture to obtain food items to provide a healthy and diversified diet to people in evacuation facilities, with a special focus on under-5 children and pregnant and lactating women.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Data not disaggregated enough for children under-five, pregnant and lactating women to inform nutrition response planning.
- Concern over private donations of bottles, breastmilk substitute and highly processed food items that are high sugar, salt and fat content).



Health

Sector Lead & Members:

Ministry of Health, WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA, IOM, Maluku Timor, PRADET

Needs:

- Prevention of water-borne diseases, vector-borne diseases (in particular dengue) and skin diseases is a key priority.
- There is an urgent need to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in evacuation facilities and amongst other temporary displaced people.
- With loss of medicine and medical supplies due to the floods, there is a need to replace emergency medical supplies.

Response:

- Health sector partners have continued to provide essential health services to the affected population through mobile health clinics.
- The Health Sector distributed masks and hand sanitizers to evacuation facilities to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and other disease outbreaks.
- A psychosocial support package is being developed and will start to be implemented shortly through a mental health hotline and group of counselors.



Gender & Protection

Sector Lead & Members:

MSSI, UNICEF, UN Women, UNFPA, CARE, Mercy Corps, Plan International, Arcoiris, Oxfam, Commission on the Rights of the Child, Alola Foundation, Ba Futuru, FOKUPERS, World Vision, Plan International, ChildFund, Scouts, Black Angels, Alumni of Youth Parliament, Fundacao Oriente

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Evacuation Facilities with
Child Friendly Spaces

Needs:

- Evidence often shows that violence is exacerbated in emergencies due to disruption of services and community life, destruction of infrastructure, separation of families and displacement, and limited access referral services. There is a need to take actions from the earliest stages of the emergency to adequately mitigate all forms of violence and safely respond to the needs of potential survivors. Disasters can have devastating effects on children's lives, and there is a need to ensure that the response takes into consideration the specific needs of children.

- There is a need to ensure that disaggregated data collected in rapid needs and damages assessment, including data on children, women, men, pregnant mothers, elderly people, and persons with disabilities (PwDs). Data privacy in assessments must be ensured, as well as safe information sharing to inform needs and responses.
- There is a need to ensure that facilities at evacuation centers are safe and easily accessible by all individuals including girls, women, elderly and people with disabilities. For example, there is a need to provide separate bathrooms and toilets for women and men, with clear signs at the entrance and adequate lighting (particularly at night). Privacy protection is essential, and each bathroom or toilet should be able to be locked from the inside. There is also a need to provide a breastfeeding area with adequate privacy at evacuation sites.

Response:

- UN Women, UNICEF and UNFPA provided technical support to ensure that the rapid site assessment of evacuation facilities is gender-sensitive and addresses the protection concerns.
- UNICEF and UNFPA created IEC materials with contact information and hotline numbers of referral services. The posters are shared widely with the Gender & Protection Sector members and in social media platforms, and they are displayed in the evacuation facilities.
- With support from UNICEF, Child Friendly Spaces have been set up in 11 evacuation facilities. UNICEF provided training to 58 volunteers, 5 MSSSI staff, and 3 staff from Commission on the Rights of the Child to deliver Psychosocial First Aid activities with children. The volunteers are from INGOs and civil society organizations including Alola Foundation, Ba Futuru, FOKUPERS, World Vision, Plan International, ChildFund, Scouts, Black Angels, Alumni of Youth Parliament. Two psychologists are supervising all volunteers. Each of the 58 volunteers were provided with backpacks with PPE and materials for the activities.
- The INGOs and CSOs mentioned above and Fundacao Oriente are running a mobile library and recreational centers, for which they also provided tents.
- UNICEF provided 8 backpacks with evacuation facility monitoring tools and verification list to MSSSI staff.

Education

Sector Lead & Members:

Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport, UNICEF, Plan International, Child Fund, Care International, HANDS, Portuguese Embassy, Oxfam, World Vision, Timor-Leste Coalition for Education (TLCE)

Needs:

- There is an immediate need to address the psychosocial and learning needs of affected children.
- There is an immediate need to provide learning materials and WASH materials to schools affected by the flooding.
- In the longer term, there is a need to reconstruct and renovate affected schools.

Response:

- Education sector partners is participating in the multi-sectoral rapid needs assessment to conduct the education sector component.
- UNICEF provided 26 recreational kits, 5 ECD kits and learning materials to be used for psychosocial support and learning activities in Child Friendly Spaces in 11 evacuation facilities.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Data gaps on the numbers of school-aged children and teachers affected.
- Detailed information on damages and losses in schools not yet available.
- Funding gap for immediate response and for reconstruction and renovation of school buildings and materials.
- Difficulties to mobilize teachers to support flood response interventions in schools due to the ongoing COVID-19 situation.

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Recreational Kits and ECD Kits provided for use in Child Friendly Spaces

GENERAL COORDINATION

The operational coordination of the flood response is led by the Secretariat of State for Civil Protection, who holds daily operational coordination meetings. The UN (IOM & RCO) and AHP partners are supporting the operational coordination role of the Secretariat of State for Civil Protection.

Humanitarian coordination is undertaken through the following sectors, with UN sector focal points as follows:

Sector	Sector Lead / Focal Point	E-mail
CCCM/Emergency Shelter	Luis Pinto, IOM Cecilia McIntosh, IOM	lppinto@iom.int cmcintosh@iom.int
WASH	Apolonia Barreto, UNICEF	Apbarreto@unicef.org
Gender & Protection	Wai Shan (Flora) Chan, UN Women Gizela Moniz Da Silva, UNICEF	Wai.Chan@unwomen.org gmdasilva@unicef.org
1. GBV Sub-Group 2. Child Protection Sub-Group	Katya Castillo, UNFPA Gizela Moniz Da Silva & Paula Vargas, UNICEF	kcastillo@unfpa.org gmdasilva@unicef.org pvargas@unicef.org
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Sector coordination meetings are starting to be held. Humanitarian partners are encouraged to contact the Sector Lead/Focal Point, should they wish to be engaged in the sector coordination mechanism.

The UN Resident Coordinator is providing strategic coordination of the UN humanitarian response to the floods, as well as high-level engagement with the Government senior leadership, diplomatic community including humanitarian donors, civil society and the media.

ANNEX - ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

EU Copernicus Emergency Mapping: <https://emergency.copernicus.eu/mapping/list-of-components/EMSR507>
UNOSAT Preliminary Analysis (Dili & Liquica): <https://unitar.org/maps/map/3263>

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