



Timor-Leste: Floods

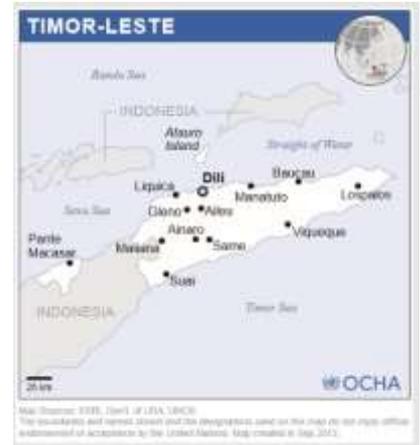
UN Resident Coordinator's Office (RCO)

Flash Update No. 1 (As of 5 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 29 March to 5 April 2021. The next report will be issued on or around 7 April 2021.

HIGHLIGHTS

- From 29 March to 4 April, heavy rains across the country have caused flash floods and landslides. The capital city, Dili, is the worst affected.
- According to preliminary official figures, a total of 2,065 households – or approximately 10,325 people - have been affected across 8 municipalities in Timor-Leste. 21 deaths were reported.
- Over 76% of affected people are in Dili municipality.
- In support of Government efforts, the UN humanitarian agencies have started to address the lifesaving needs of the affected people, in particular the women and children in evacuation facilities in Dili.



10,325

affected people

8

Municipalities
affected

1,579

Households affected in
Dili

11

Evacuation facilities
in Dili

21

Fatalities

SITUATION OVERVIEW

Heavy rains across the country from 29 March to 4 April have resulted in flash floods and landslides affecting 8 municipalities, with the capital Dili worst affected. Dili was heavily flooded on 4 April, flash floods causing much damage to houses, buildings and public infrastructures including sections of main roads. The national medical storage facility, SAMES, was also heavily flooded, with many medical supplies including for the ongoing COVID-19 response damaged and lost. COVID-19 isolation facility had to be temporary evacuated, and the national laboratory was also temporary affected by the flooding. Efforts are ongoing to ensure that the situation will not negatively impact the ongoing COVID-19 response. An outbreak of water-borne diseases is also a concern. A total 21 fatalities, including 6 children, have been officially recorded so far.

According to official figures, a total of 2,065 households – or approximately 10,325 people – have been affected across the country. Of which, 1,579 affected households are in Dili municipality. As at 5 April, there are 11 official evacuation facilities across the city. While the extent of the casualties, loss and damages is yet to be assessed, this event is without doubt the worst flooding the country has seen in recent history.

GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

The Government – led by the Secretariat of State for Civil Protection together with other ministries including the Ministry of Public Works, the Ministry of Social Solidarity and Inclusion and the Ministry of Health – is leading the humanitarian response to the affected population with support from humanitarian partners, ranging from identification and overall management of the evacuation facilities, evacuation and transportation of vulnerable groups to these facilities, removal of debris, provision of essential services to the affected population, and, rehabilitation of damaged infrastructure. Ministry of Health is providing medical services in all evacuation facilities.

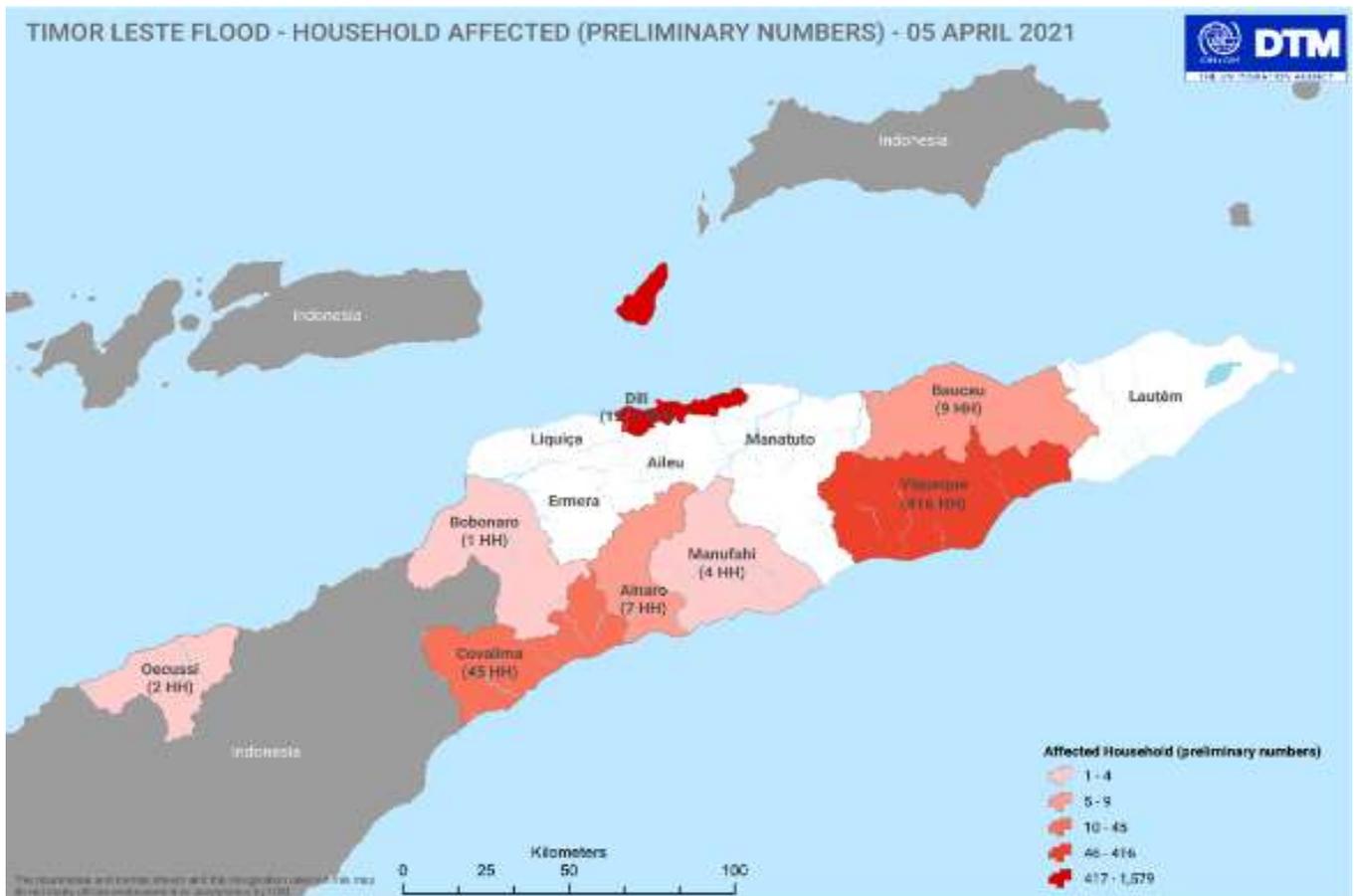
HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

From the morning of 4 April, the UN humanitarian agencies were mobilized to start the emergency response in support of the Government efforts. As a part of the joint UN-NGOs La Nina preparedness planning, UNICEF and UNFPA had pre-positioned relief supplies in the UN Compound, which enabled rapid response. As at 5 April, UNFPA delivered 125 dignity kits (sufficient for 125 households or 625 people) to the Secretariat of State for Civil Protection, and UNICEF delivered sanitary kits for cleaning, tarpaulins, plastic mats and blankets also to the Secretariat of State for Civil Protection.

The rapid Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) site assessment of all 11 government-identified evacuation facilities - coordinated by IOM with support from UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, WFP and WHO - is expected to be finalized by 6 April. This would provide much-needed data and information related to the affected people in the evacuation facilities, majority of whom are women and children. Based on the site assessment findings, additional relief items will be distributed to those in the evacuation facilities.

In addition, UNDP provided 500 hot meals and 1,000 bottles of water to affected people in Tasi Tolu, with additional 2,000 hot meals distributed on 5 April. WFP is leading the logistics coordination of the UN humanitarian response, as well as providing logistics support to the Government including loaning of one Mobile Storage Unit to SAMES for emergency storage. WHO provided food packages (consisting of milk, water, juice, biscuits, nuts and candies) for approximately 100 first respondents, including health workers, and others; 25 sets of mattresses, blankets and pillows to Lahane medical COVID-19 isolation center; 200 sets of floor mats and blankets to affected people in evacuation facilities; and, over 2,000 face masks and 1,500 hand sanitizers as a COVID-19 and public health protection measure.

Priority needs in the evacuation facilities are mobile toilets and clean water. On 5 April, UNICEF delivered 7 mobile toilets to 4 evacuation facilities. Additional mobile toilets and clean water supplies – including safe drinking water - are being organized with support from UNICEF and UNDP.



Based on preliminary data provided by the Secretariat of State for Civil Protection and humanitarian partners on 5 April 2021.

Currently, the UN agencies are utilizing existing resources to respond to the flood emergency. As needs assessment data becomes available, the UN agencies will be mobilizing additional resources from corporate emergency funding mechanisms and local humanitarian donors.

The multi-sectoral rapid needs assessment – led by the Secretariat of State for Civil Protection and supported by the UN and humanitarian partners - is planned to start on 6 April. This would provide critical data and information to plan the humanitarian response going forward.

GENERAL COORDINATION

The coordination of the flood response is led by the Secretariat of State for Civil Protection. The UN – with two staff from IOM and RCO as a part of the secretariat coordinating the national response – is working closely with the Secretariat of State for Civil Protection, as well as with other line ministries across sectors.

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