



Humanitarian Aid

Seeking to leave its violent past behind, Timor Leste is focusing on reconstruction, development and reconciliation with the help of the international community. Since 1999, the European Commission Humanitarian Aid department (ECHO) has provided more than €52 million in emergency assistance to the most vulnerable victims of violence and in response to alarming levels of malnutrition. In complementarity to the humanitarian assistance, ECHO is also supporting vulnerable people living in disaster-prone areas with disaster preparedness measures.

Assisting the victims of violence

In spring 2006 riots and fierce demonstrations took place in the capital Dili after a large dismissal of soldiers from the army. In a country which has experienced heightened instability since its 1999 referendum for independence, tensions increased quickly, leading to an outbreak of violence forcing around 150,000 people to leave their homes.

By end of January 2009, it is estimated that 10.000 people remain displaced, living in camps under difficult conditions.

In response, ECHO focuses its intervention on the support to return and integration of the displaced people. This support focuses on several sectors such as access to water and sanitation in the camps and transitional shelters, camp management, protection and transport of IDPs, food aid rations for the returnees, health and child protection, return monitoring.

Since late 2007 the government encourages displaced families to return home by providing financial assistance. By end of 2008, almost 11,700 families accepted the assistance and 43 out of 47 camps are closed. For those who have no home to go back to, the government is developing long-term solutions.

ECHO provided €39 million humanitarian aid from 1999 to 2002 following the destruction and violence in the wake of the 1999 referendum leaving glaring humanitarian needs. This aid was phased out in 2002 when development projects funded by the European Commission and other donors were well under way.

Humanitarian Aid in Timor Leste

EC humanitarian aid since 1999

In response to natural disasters	€ 6 million
In response to civil unrest	€46.9 million
Disaster preparedness	€1.20 million



One of several child-friendly spaces set up by Plan International in camp in Dili to monitor Children's well-being.

Photo credit: Anne-Francoise Moffroid/ECHO

Reducing the impact of natural disaster (DIPECHO)

In addition, through its disaster preparedness programme (DIPECHO), the Commission assists vulnerable communities to understand and assess the risks they are exposed to and take appropriate pre-emptive measures to reduce them. In 2008, ECHO provides funding to UNDP and Concern Worldwide to strengthen disaster risk reduction and management systems with a stronger focus on capacity-building of local/national structures and advocacy/public awareness. Moreover, ECHO also provides support to enhance the Red Cross/Red Crescent (IFRC) capacity to build safer and more resilient communities in Southeast Asia through an access to a standardised disaster risk reduction framework, including training and community intervention methodologies and tools.

About European Commission humanitarian aid: The Humanitarian Aid department (ECHO) is part of the European Commission, the European Union's executive arm. It comes under direct responsibility of Louis Michel, European Commissioner for European Development and Humanitarian Aid. Through ECHO funding, nearly 20 million people are helped each year in more than 90 countries through 200 partners (NGOS, International organizations, the Red Cross and Red Crescent movement, and UN agencies).

Web: <http://ec.europa.eu/echo>

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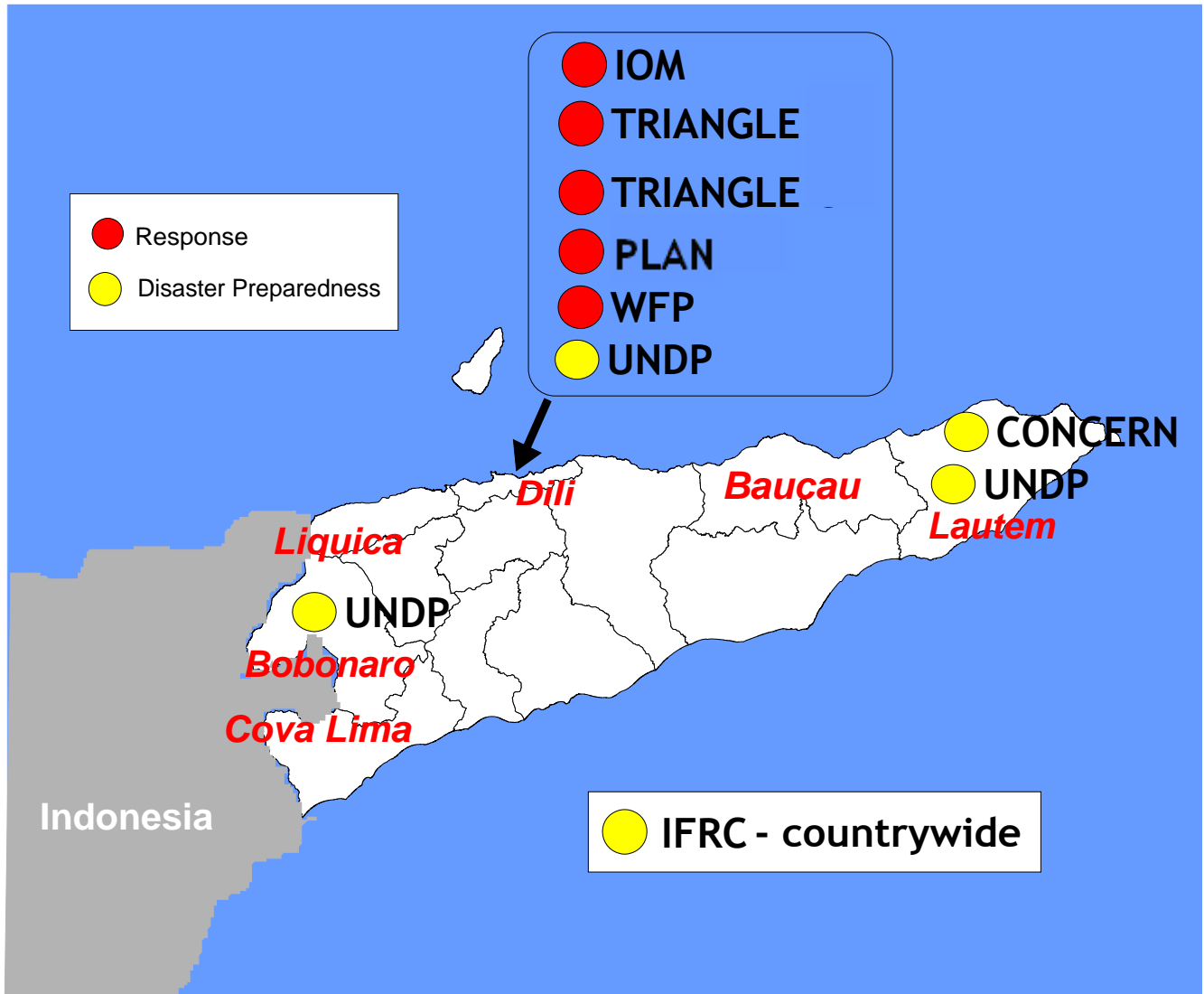
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ECHO/DIPECHO On-going projects in 2009

RESPONSES		
Partner	Sector	Amount(€)
Plan International	Child Protection/ WATSAN/ Health	373,000
International Organisation for Migration (IOM)	Protection	930,709
Triangle Génération Humanitaire (TGH)	WATSAN	224,000
Triangle Génération Humanitaire (TGH)	Protection	70,000
TOTAL		1,530,709

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS	
Partner	Amount(€)
UNDP	300,000
Concern Worldwide	300,837
IFRC (regional)	61,500
TOTAL	662,337