



Timor-Leste: Floods

UN Resident Coordinator's Office (RCO)

Flash Update No. 2 (As of 7 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 6 to 7 April 2021. The next report will be issued on or around 9 April 2021.

HIGHLIGHTS

- From 29 March to 4 April, heavy rains across the country have caused flash floods and landslides. A total of 8 municipalities were affected, with the capital Dili and the surrounding low-lying areas the worst affected.
- According to the latest official figures (7 April) from the Secretariat of State for Civil Protection, a total of 2,375 households – or 9,779 people – are in the 18 official evacuation facilities in Dili. There are many more displaced – including many women and children - in informal evacuation sites across the city.
- To date, a total of 42 fatalities (including 13 who are still missing and presumed dead) have been recorded.
- In support of Government efforts, the UN and humanitarian partners have continued to address the lifesaving multi-sectoral needs of the affected people, in particular the women and children in evacuation facilities in Dili.
- The Rapid Site Assessment conducted on 5/6 April by a joint UN team identified urgent needs in the evacuation centers as being: WASH facilities, food and drinking water, non-food items, and medicine.



8

Municipalities affected (out of 13 municipalities)

9,779

Temporary displaced people in evacuation facilities in Dili

18

Evacuation facilities in Dili

42

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 and the surrounding low-lying areas the worst affected. To date, a total of 42 fatalities have been recorded in Dili (22), Ainaro (10), Aileu (2), Manatuto (5), and Viqueque (3).

According to the latest official figures, there are 9,779 displaced individuals – or 2,375 households - in 18 official evacuation centers in Dili municipality. Urgent needs in these evacuation centers are WASH facilities, food and drinking water, non-food items, and medicine. Humanitarian partners have noted with concern that some of the private donations to the evacuation centers include products such as bottles and breastmilk substitutes, which do not follow the global [Operational Guidance for Infant and Young Child Feeding in Emergencies](#). Nutrition situation of temporary displaced under-5 children and pregnant and lactating mothers is emerging as an increasing concern. There is also concern about the potential spread of COVID-19 at these sites.

Humanitarian partners are reporting that there are many more vulnerable displaced people – including many women and children – outside of the official evacuation centers, such as in Tasi Tolu, who require urgent humanitarian assistance. Extensive damage has been reported to houses, buildings (including health facilities and COVID-19 quarantine and isolation centers) and public infrastructure such as roads, bridges and riverbanks, and the assessment of damages and losses are ongoing. According to an initial assessment done by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, 10 school buildings were

destroyed in Dili, and two schools in Dili are being used as evacuation facilities. Essential services – including electricity, water, and ICT - were temporarily disrupted and are yet to be fully resumed in some areas.

The floods come at a time when the country has seen a surge in COVID-19 cases with Dili municipality in strict lockdown since 9 March. The temporary displacement of people poses a threat to spread of COVID-19 as well as outbreaks of water-borne and vector-borne diseases, which would put a further strain on Timor-Leste's already over-stretched, fragile health system. The first batch of COVID-19 vaccines arrived in-country on 5 April, and the national vaccination programme was launched on 7 April. It is expected that the essential workers at the frontline of the COVID-19 response - many of whom are also at the frontline of the floods response – will receive their first dose of COVID-19 vaccination over the next couple of weeks.

GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

The Government – led by the Secretariat of State for Civil Protection together with other ministries including the Ministry of Social Solidarity and Inclusion, the Ministry of Public Works, 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.

The Government is expected to call a partners' meeting on Friday, 9 April, to update all partners on the situation and priority needs, outline the Government's strategic priorities for the floods response, and seek support for additional international assistance.

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.

The findings of the rapid Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) site assessment of 10 evacuation facilities - coordinated by IOM with support from UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, WFP and WHO – are now available (see Annex). The data collection took place on 5 and 6 April. The analysis provides much-needed data and information related to the affected people in the evacuation facilities, majority of whom are women and children. The site assessment findings identify priority needs in the evacuation facilities and will inform humanitarian partners' further support to those in the evacuation facilities.

UN agencies (IOM, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, WFP, WHO) provided support to the rapid needs assessment exercise led by the Secretariat of State for Civil Protection on 7 April. This is expected to provide critical data and information to plan the humanitarian response going forward.

CCCM & Emergency Shelter

- UNICEF delivered 1,210 plastic mats, 29 tarpaulins, 1,071 blankets and hundreds of cleaning tools and products to evacuation facilities, social solidarity institutions (through the Minister of Social Solidarity and Inclusion) and the Secretariat of State for Civil Protection. These cleaning supplies included 60 mops, 50 brooms, 57 scrubbing brush, 52 packs of kitchen cleaning cloth, 52 packs of garbage bags, 120 pairs of rubber gloves, 57 bottles of floor cleaning liquid, 57 bottles of bleaching powder, 220 packs of laundry detergent and 207 bottles of handwashing soap.
- WFP provided water points and masks to the evacuation facility in Hera.

WASH

- UNICEF improved the hygiene conditions in the 3 major evacuation facilities (Joao Paulo II, Dom Bosco and Bidau Church) by installing a total of 5 mobile toilets. Seven additional mobile toilets will be installed in the other evacuation facilities in the coming days.
- UNDP installed 8 handwashing stations in evacuation facilities, with additional 3 ready to be installed whenever requested.
- Working with BEE Timor-Leste, E.P. and a private company, UNICEF improved the affected population's access to safe water by filling the existing water tanks.
- UNICEF provided liquid soap (10 bottles each) for hand washing in the public facilities.

Food Security

- UNDP has been distributing hot meals, drinking water and beverages to 6 evacuation facilities (Ministry of Finance, Don Bosco, John Paul, Liceu, Hera (Sao Tiago), Civil Protection). Each day, 2,000 hot meals were delivered between 5 and 7 April (and 500 on 4 April), and expected to continue until 12 April.

Health

- WHO and UNICEF are supporting the Ministry of Health and the Dili Municipality Health Services with the planning and provision of emergency medical care and other health interventions to the temporary displaced people in the evacuation facilities through mobile clinics.
- WHO conducted Rapid Health Facility Assessment in the National Hospital of Guido Valadares and in three Community Health Centers (Formosa 2, Comoro, and Becora).
- In collaboration with the Ministry of Health, UNFPA facilitated transportation of midwives from health centers to the evacuation facilities to support delivery of essential services to pregnant women. Through mobile maternity clinics, essential services and basic materials will be provided to expectant mothers.
- UNICEF is supporting the Ministry of Health to operate a mental health hotline.

Gender & Protection

- Gender & Protection Working Group met on 6 April, co-led by the Ministry of Social Solidarity and Inclusion (MSSI), UNICEF and UN Women, with participation of over 35 civil society organizations, to coordinate the gender and protection response to the floods.
- UNICEF assessed the impact of the floods on 10 residential care facilities and shelters for children. The assessment identified the risk situation and basic needs of 140 children in 3 most affected institutional care facilities. In response, in coordination with MSSI, UNICEF delivered blankets and drinking water to these 140 children in these 3 facilities.
- UNICEF delivered assorted toys for recreational activities (including color pencils, notebooks and soccer balls), baby clothes, diapers, underwear, mosquito rackets and slippers to five evacuation facilities (Hera, Lahare, Balide, Ministry of Finance and Don Bosco).
- UNICEF is preparing for child-friendly spaces with psychosocial support activities and recreational materials to be established in the evacuation facilities, which will benefit around 1,600 children.
- UNFPA distributed 258 dignity kits to support 1,290 women and girls of reproductive age in the evacuation facilities. Dignity kits contain menstrual pads and other hygiene and sanitary items that are tailored to support the safety of women and girls during displacement.
- UNFPA conducted a GBV and protection assessment in one evacuation facility.

Education

- UNICEF and Education Sector members are supporting the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports to assess the impact of the floods on the school buildings and to plan the Education sector response.

Logistics

- WFP is providing logistics support and coordination to humanitarian partners to facilitate delivery of emergency relief items to the affected population in evacuation facilities and beyond.

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.

GENERAL COORDINATION

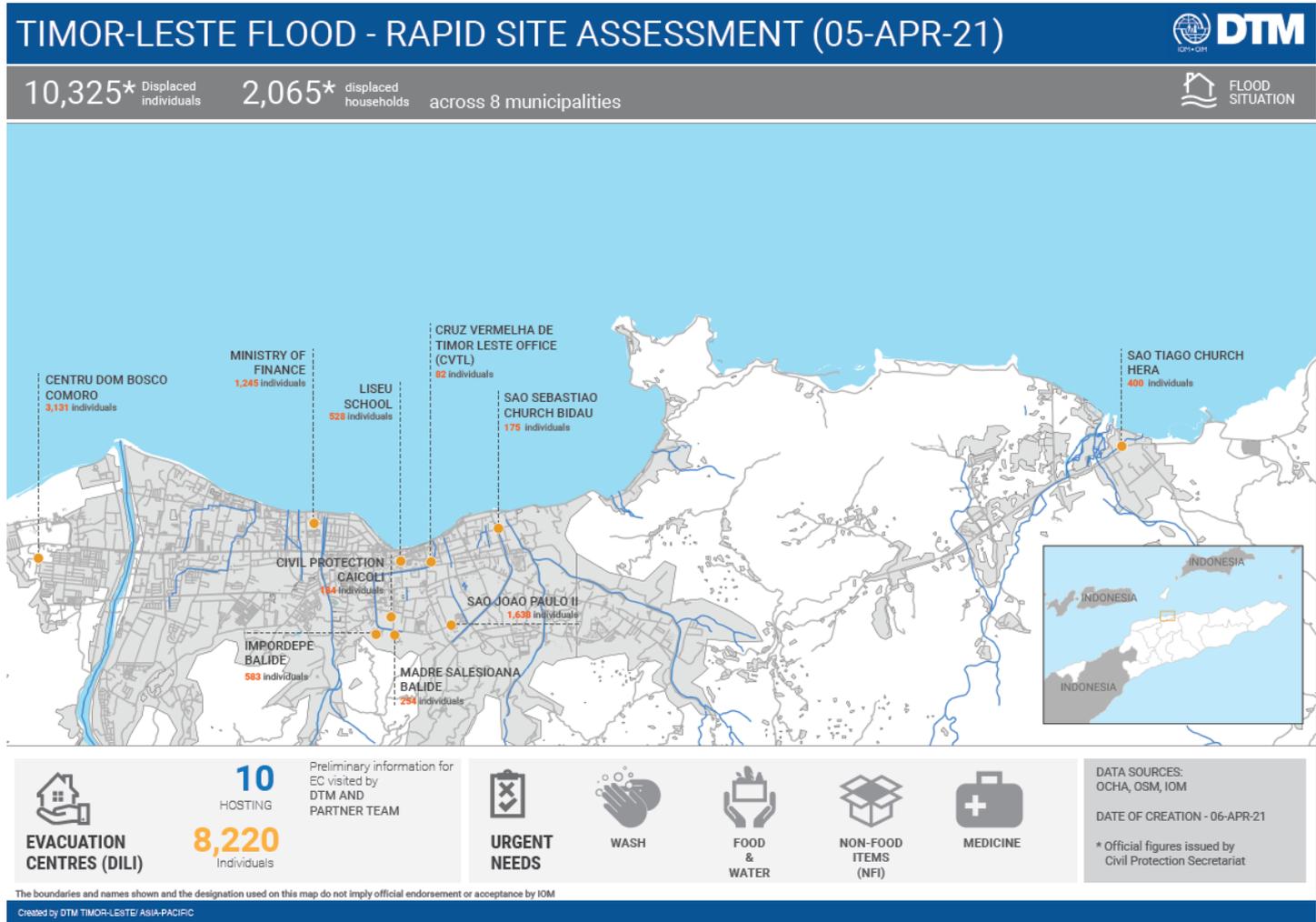
The coordination of the flood response is led by the Secretariat of State for Civil Protection. The UN – with two staff from IOM and RCO as a part of the secretariat coordinating the national response – is working closely with the Secretariat of State for Civil Protection, as well as with other line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

In lieu of the humanitarian cluster approach, humanitarian coordination is undertaken through the following sectors, with UN sector focal points as follows:

<i>Sector</i>	<i>Sector Lead / Focal Point</i>	<i>E-mail</i>
CCCM/Emergency Shelter	Luis Pinto, IOM	lppinto@iom.int
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Gender & Protection	Wai Shan (Flora) Chan, UN Women Gizela Moniz Da Silva, UNICEF	Wai.Chan@unwomen.org gmdasilva@unicef.org
Food Security	Ash Rogers, WFP Benjamin Banda, WFP Paula Lopes da Cruz, FAO	Ash.Rogers@wfp.org Benjamin.Banda@unicef.org Paula.LopesdaCruz@fao.org
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Health	Luis dos Reis, WHO	reisl@who.int
Education	Ameena Mohamed Didi, UNICEF	amdidi@unicef.org
Livelihoods / Early Recovery	Lazima Onta Bhatta, UNDP Youngchan Kim, UNDP Domingos (Leqsi) Siga Maria, UNDP	lazima.ontabhattera@undp.org Youngchan.kim@undp.org domingos.sigamaria@undp.org
Emergency Logistics	Louis Boshoff	louis.boshoff@wfp.org

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. RCO is providing inter-sector coordination.

ANNEX: TIMOR-LESTE FLOOD – RAPID SITE ASSESSMENT (5 APRIL 2021)



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