



Disaster READY Timor-Leste

Progress Update - 2018
June 2019



AHP

Disaster READY



Disaster READY is an AUD 50 million disaster preparedness and resilience program that is implemented through the Australian Humanitarian Partnership (AHP) by AHP partners and their local networks across the Pacific and Timor-Leste. Disaster READY represents Australia's largest ever investment in disaster preparedness in the region, and is an important element of Australia's stepped-up engagement for a more resilient Pacific.

The focus of Disaster READY is to strengthen disaster preparedness and management across what is one of the world's most vulnerable regions to natural disasters, and which is also prone to political instability. Disaster READY draws on the deep networks and partnerships developed by Australian NGOs in the region to support Pacific communities and governments to better prepare for and respond to disasters. The program focuses on ensuring vulnerable groups, including women, people with disabilities and children, are included and accounted for in disaster preparedness, management and risk reduction activities.

Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response is a key priority of action in the 2015-2030 Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

Disaster READY is being implemented in Fiji, Vanuatu, the Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea and Timor-Leste.

This report was developed by the AHP Support Unit drawing on individual program reports submitted by Disaster READY partners. It presents an overview of Disaster READY progress in Timor-Leste in 2018.

The AHP Support Unit acknowledges the input and review of all partners in the development of this report.

A complete overview of Disaster READY progress across all five countries and at a program level in 2018 can be found on the AHP website (www.australianhumanitarianpartnership.org) or by contacting the AHP support unit at supportunit@ahpsu.com.

Disaster READY

Timor-Leste 2018 Highlights

- Localised coordination and preparation efforts are emerging, with local NGOs actively forming a disaster risk reduction network.
- The Government of Timor-Leste and the Timor-Leste Red Cross are actively involved with Disaster READY through ongoing coordination and attendance at Disaster READY Country Committee meetings.
- Disaster READY Timor-Leste has been added to the national disaster committee list, cementing the role of local partners in the Timor-Leste disaster preparedness and response system.

Disaster READY Beneficiaries as of December 31, 2018



8,190
Beneficiaries
Reached



47%
Women
and Girls



1%
People
Living with
Disabilities



4.7%
Children

2018 Partners

Cruz Vermelha de Timor-Leste- Binifu Faef Nome- Ra'és Hadomi Timor Oan- Masine Neo Oe-Cusse- Youth in Action Towards Sustainability- Fini Esperanza- Centro Comunidade Covalima- Kdadalak Sulimutuk Institute- Permakultura Timor-Leste- Plan International Timor-Leste- ChildFund Timor Leste- Fraterna- Rural Youth Action- Redi Feto

Progress against Objectives

Preparedness

Communities are better prepared for rapid and slow-onset disasters.



- 4 out of 54 target communities have disaster plans in place.
- The Oecusse Regional Disaster Management Committee structure was finalised and regional contingency plans completed, including seven suco-level disaster risk reduction plans (three in Oecusse and four in Covalima).
- Community-level awareness raising was undertaken in Covalima and Oecusse. This included introducing community members to community-based disaster risk reduction concepts through community meetings and practical exercises, such as community risk assessments and the development of community action plans. In total, 120 people (22% women, 4% people with a disability) participated in this process.

Protection and Inclusion

The rights and needs of vulnerable groups are being met in disaster preparedness and response at all levels.



- For the first time, Lautem Municipal Disaster Management Committee members participated in comprehensive gender, disability inclusion and child protection training, increasing their awareness of the needs and opportunities for women and persons with disabilities within the framework of disaster management.
- Three sucos (Costa, Bobometo and Lactos) have prioritised the needs of women and people with disability in their disaster plans following community action planning and disaster risk reduction training for village leaders. The communities also identified barriers that exist in their communities for women and persons with disabilities.
- AHP NGOs have identified that 9 out of 16 disaster assessment tools mandated by the national government include specific questions on women and children, and only one nationally-mandated tool includes an assessment of people with a disability. Recognising this gap, AHP NGOs have been advocating for the national disaster management committee to include the Washington Group Short Set of Disability Questions questions in all disaster assessment tools. AHP NGOs have also been advocating for evaluation centres to be modified to be accessible.

Progress ratings explained

The level of progress has been determined by the AHP Support Unit based on the evidence provided by the NGO partners through the Disaster READY reporting system. The ratings were allocated based on consideration of factors such as:

- What has been achieved to date? For example, training having been provided is less significant than whether there have been changes in products, practices or policies as a result of the training.
- The reach of the change – e.g. considering the number of partners which had achieved the result, and the number of communities involved.
- In some cases early progress is adequate progress to date, given the program was in its inception year etc, and the particular country context.
- The ratings are intended to inform discussion, and to assist the partners to monitor change in following years.



No Progress



Early Progress



Progress



Significant Progress

Coordination within country systems

Government, NGOs, the private sector and communities coordinate more effectively for inclusive disaster preparedness and response.



- A project MOU with the Government of Timor-Leste National Directorate for Disaster Management was developed (signed early 2019). This MoU provides the mandate for Disaster READY partners to implement in Timor-Leste.
- Government authorities have expressed a willingness to coordinate with Disaster READY and work with Disaster READY partners to strengthen Disaster Management Committees and the role they play within the government systems.
- Disaster READY partners are utilising Government of Timor-Leste-mandated community-based disaster risk management tools, ensuring that existing tools and processes are not duplicated while also providing support to strengthen the current system.

Strengthening the role of organisations

National NGOs and faith-based organisations have more influence and capacity in the country humanitarian system.



- Eight local and national NGOs are building a local disaster risk reduction network and are well represented in the national Disaster Risk Management Working Group. This is a result of their involvement with Disaster READY which has encouraged collaboration through the Disaster READY design process followed by implementation.
- Capacity development support provided to Ra'és Hadomi Timor Oan (RHTO) and other disabled people's organisations in order to build advocacy and technical capability of these organisations in disaster preparedness and response. Training and capacity development support was extended to Disaster READY partners to strengthen internal awareness and capability.
- Following training on community based disaster risk management and gender and social inclusion, Disaster READY consortia partners proceeded to implement similar trainings within target communities, including with municipal disaster management committees and suco councils.

Collaboration

AHP NGOs work effectively together and with other relevant stakeholders.



- Collaboration between Disaster READY partners on specific activities such as baseline development, disability training and standardisation of community-based disaster risk management tools across all partner agencies, has contributed to a more cohesive Disaster READY program in Timor-Leste. It has also ensured a consistent approach when working with government partners, making it easier for the government to engage and work with the program.
- Quarterley meetings were held with key stakeholders, including the Government of Timor-Leste, the Timor-Leste Red Cross and DFAT to share progress and invite stakeholder input.



No Progress



Early Progress



Progress



Significant Progress

Story from the Field:

Timor-Leste prepares for drought

Timor-Leste is prone to natural disasters, including droughts, which place already vulnerable populations at risk of disease, malnutrition and loss of livelihoods.

In February 2018, World Vision delivered Community-Owned Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (COVACA) training to the District Disaster Management Committee in Tatelori, Bobonaro Municipality. Participants included representatives from the ministries of Social Solidarity and Inclusion, Agriculture and Fisheries, Interior, State Administration and the Ministry of Public Works, and the Red Cross and community members.

Rui, a Tatelori resident, said community members were concerned about drought. Drought means reduced access to clean water, higher health risks, failed crops and food shortages.

The meeting proved a catalyst for the Tatelori community. They worked with the Disaster Management Committee to plan their drought response and the Disaster READY team helped them identify and prioritise the risk and develop mitigation and management responses.

“Eventually, we came up with our action plan that can help to protect our water resources by planting tree seedlings, which can preserve water as well as protect against landslides,” Rui said.

During May and June, the Tatelori community planted 75 tree seedlings around three water sources. Through Disaster READY, World Vision assisted with the construction of fences and distribution of drip irrigation materials.

The training did not only directly benefit the Tatelori community. Government official, Sabino de Jesus, reflected that previously public sector disaster response was focused on distributing emergency relief supplies and collecting data, with little in the way of preparedness.

“This COVACA training was really new to me and very beneficial because I learned the action plans, monitoring and evaluation and measure of preparedness before natural disasters strike.”

Mr de Jesus put his new skills into practice when he went on to train a further six communities in COACA tools in March and April, 2018.



Photo credit: World Vision

Disaster READY Timor-Leste - Detailed Progress against Indicators, 2018

How to read the Progress Tables






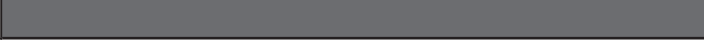



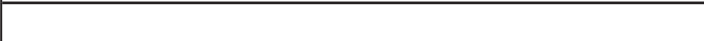









Disaster READY was designed around a core set of indicators which are consistent across the five countries. The NGOs selected which of these indicators were relevant for them to report on based on their particular work plans. In the table below, where an indicator is not relevant for a particular NGO the progress column as been blocked out.

Some target data has been included in this 2018 report. Baseline and target data will be a more prominent focus in the 2019 report for the relevant indicators. It should be noted though that the targets are indicative only, as Disaster READY is designed to be flexible to respond to the changing circumstances and lessons emerging from the program.

Objective: Preparedness

Communities are better prepared for rapid and slow-onset disasters.

 = Indicator not part of work plan

Indicator		Country Progress	Progress by NGO	
A	Number of individuals who directly benefit from AHP activities.	Refer Figure 1.		
B	Number and percentage of communities which have disaster plans to reduce and respond to disaster.	13 out of 49 target communities.	CARE	
			Oxfam	9 out of 18 target communities.
			Plan International	
			World Vision	4 out of 4 target communities.
C	Number and percentage of communities that have tested their response plan.	7 out of 49 target communities.	CARE	
			Oxfam	7 (baseline) out of 18 target communities.
			Plan International	
			World Vision	
D	Number and percentage of communities that have implemented action plans to reduce risks.	8 out of 49 target communities.	CARE	
			Oxfam	5 out of 18 target communities
			Plan International	
			World Vision	3 out of 4 target communities.
E	Number of communities seeking financial support for disaster plans from government	5 out of 49 target communities.	CARE	
			Oxfam	5 out of 18 target communities.
			Plan International	
			World Vision	
F	Number and percentage of communities which are receiving and acting on early warning information for rapid-and slow-onset disasters.	2 out of 49 target communities.	CARE	
			Oxfam	
			Plan International	
			World Vision	2 out of 4 target communities.
G	Examples of early warnings being accessible (considering geographic reach, diversity of methods, e.g. radio, print, SMS, etc., and clarity of message).		CARE	
			Oxfam	
			Plan International	
			World Vision	

Objective: Inclusion and Protection

The rights and needs of vulnerable groups are being met in disaster preparedness and response at all levels.

 = Indicator not part of work plan

Indicator		Country Progress	Progress by NGO	
H	Number and percentage of community disaster plans that are inclusive of women, youth, children and people with disabilities.	7 out of 49 target communities.	CARE	
			Oxfam	3 out of 18 target communities (sucos).
			Plan International	
			World Vision	4 out of 4 target communities.
I	Number and percentage of disaster assessment tools mandated by national committees. that include questions on gender, disability and children.		CARE	
			Oxfam (on behalf of all NGOs)	9 out of 16 of disaster assessment tools mandated by national committees include specific questions on women and children. Currently only 1 nationally-mandated tool includes an assessment of people with a disability. Oxfam has recommended the national disaster management committee include the Washington Group Questions in all disaster assessment tools.
			Plan International	
			World Vision	
J	Number of disaster committees that have women represented, and the percentage of members that are women (by national or sub-national level).	12 out of 78 target communities.	CARE	
			Oxfam	6 out of 30 target disaster committees.
			Plan International	2 out of 24 target disaster committees.
			World Vision	4 out of 7 target disaster committees.
K	Number of people with disabilities on national and sub-national disaster committees.	2 out of 78 target communities.	CARE	
			Oxfam	
			Plan International	
			World Vision	2 out of 7 target disaster committees.
L	Examples of inclusive humanitarian practices by government during a response.		CARE	
			Oxfam	
			Plan International	
			World Vision	

Indicator		Country Progress	Progress by NGO	
M	Examples of men and boys, church leaders and other community leaders, and government staff addressing barriers to inclusion in disaster preparedness and response.		CARE	
			Oxfam	Three communities (Costa, Bobometo and Lactos sucos) have prioritised the needs of women and people with a disability in their disaster plans following community action planning and disaster risk reduction training for village leaders. The communities also identified barriers that exist in their communities for women and persons with disabilities.
			Plan International	Lautem Municipal Disaster Management Committee participated in training on gender, disability and child protection and indicated a commitment to address barriers.
			World Vision	

Objective: Coordination within Country Systems

Government, NGOs, the private sector and communities coordinate more effectively for inclusive disaster preparedness and response.

= Indicator not part of work plan

Indicator		Country Progress	Progress by NGO	
N	Number and percentage of AHP NGOs who have preparedness and response plans that explicitly prioritise social inclusion and gender.		CARE	All AHP NGOs
			Oxfam	
			Plan International	
			World Vision	
O	Number and percentage of national and sub-national disaster committees that meet regularly and engage actively with the community.	14 out of 78 target communities.	CARE	
			Oxfam	12 out of 30 target disaster committees.
			Plan International	1 out of 24 target disaster committees.
			World Vision	1 out of 7 target disaster committees.
P	Examples of sub-national disaster committees which have improved disaster preparedness practices (e.g. they have mapped evacuation assets or risk profiles for communities).		CARE	Community leaders trained in community-based disaster risk management at the suco level. Community leaders are now skilled to communicate disaster risk reduction messages in their community and support community assessments of disaster risks and mitigation strategy development.
			Oxfam	Covalima Municipality Disaster Management Committee developed contingency plans. Oecusse Regional Disaster Management Committee drafted a disaster preparedness plan.
			Plan International	
			World Vision	
Q	N/A			
R	Examples of improved communication between communities and government (e.g. community assessments have informed government-led responses).		CARE	
			Oxfam	
			Plan International	
			World Vision	
S	N/A			

Objective: Stenghtening the Role of Organisations

National NGOs and faith-based organisations have more influence and capacity in the country humanitarian system.


 = Indicator not part of work plan

Indicator		Country Progress	Progress by NGO	
T	Number of CSOs and churches represented on national disaster clusters or coordination committees.		CARE	
			Oxfam	
			Plan International	
			World Vision	
U	Number of national NGOs and churches that have improved operational or financial policies or practices that align with humanitarian standards.		CARE	
			Oxfam	1 NGO (Cruz Vermelha de Timor-Leste)
			Plan International	
			World Vision	
V	Examples of increased influence by national INGO offices relative to their headquarters during a disaster response		CARE	
			Oxfam	Disaster READY implementing partners have demonstrated an increase in their disaster risk reduction technical capacity, for example eight local and national NGOs are building a local disaster risk reduction network and are well represented in the national Disaster Risk Management Working Group.
			Plan International	
			World Vision	

Objective: Collaboration

AHP NGOs work effectively together and with other relevant stakeholders.

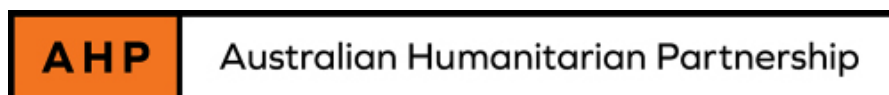
 = Indicator not part of work plan

Indicator		Country Progress	Progress by NGO	
W	Level of satisfaction of key government partners and the Red Cross with AHP coordination.		CARE	
			Oxfam	The Government of Timor-Leste and the Timor-Leste Red Cross are actively involved in the Disaster READY Country Committee and Disaster READY has been added to the national disaster committee list.
			Plan International	
			World Vision	
X	Examples of where AHP NGOs have integrated DRR into their other work.		CARE	CARE's HAFORSA project, which aims to improve agricultural livelihood opportunities in Atsabe, Ermera Municipalities towards poverty reduction with a specific focus on women's economic empowerment, is now implementing disaster risk reduction initiatives at the community level by conducting risk assessments and developing aldeia resilience action plans.
			Oxfam	
			Plan International	
			World Vision	

This report has been compiled by the
Australian Humanitarian Partnership Support Unit
on behalf of the Timor-Leste Disaster READY partners.

Cover image provided by World Vision.

The Australian Humanitarian Partnership, inclusive
of the Disaster READY program, is an initiative of the
Australian Government.



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