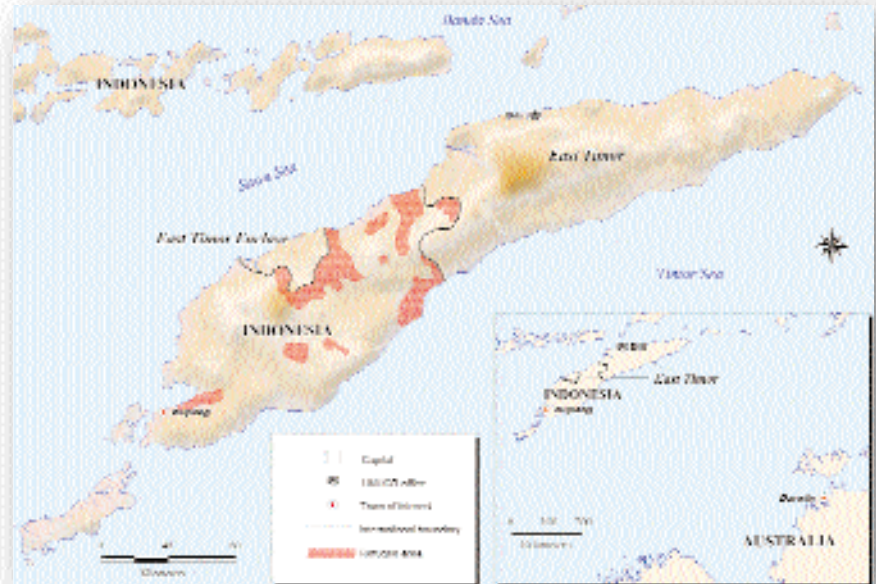


East Timor in short

Main Objectives

- Promote voluntary repatriation to East Timor in safety and dignity and meet the special needs of the most vulnerable.
- Contribute to reintegration through assistance projects that are directly linked to the protection of the most vulnerable.
- Seek an effective transition from initial reintegration assistance to longer-term community rehabilitation, development and reconciliation.
- Support national and local-level peace and reconciliation programmes.
- Prepare a longer-term strategy to ensure that an independent East Timor enacts appropriate refugee legislation and accedes to the 1951 Convention and 1967 Protocol.



PLANNING FIGURES

Population	Jan. 2001	Dec. 2001
Returnees	570,000	570,000
Total	570,000	570,000

TOTAL REQUIREMENTS • USD 6,671,827

WORKING ENVIRONMENT

Recent Developments

UNHCR's primary objective for 2000 was to assist East Timorese refugees to return home from West Timor and other locations. In West Timor, where most of the refugees were living in camps, members of anti-autonomy groups sought to block repatriation by intimidation and violence directed at both refugees and humanitarian workers. The climate of fear was such that by April, repatriation had almost come to a standstill. Until then, UNHCR had been promoting the voluntary return of those refugees with former links to anti-autonomy groups, in an effort to promote reconciliation and sustainable reintegration.

In West Timor, numerous security incidents culminated in the brutal murder of three UNHCR staff in September, the subse-

quent withdrawal of UN staff and the suspension of all activities. By that time, nearly 169,000 refugees had returned to East Timor, the majority under the auspices of UNHCR. Approximately 90,000 remain in West Timor, of whom it is estimated that 50,000 still wish to return to East Timor.

UNHCR's main reintegration activity in East Timor is the shelter programme. In partnership with the NGO community, UNHCR had planned to deliver a total of 35,000 housing units and tools to enable the most needy returnee and IDP families to rebuild their houses themselves. At the time of writing, 26,500 units had been delivered to East Timor.



Constraints

The prevailing insecurity in West Timor is threatening the stability of East Timor and is hampering the repatriation of refugees. Seventy per cent of private homes and public buildings in East Timor were destroyed in the aftermath of the August 1999 referendum. Basic infrastructure is still weak, in places non-existent, and employment extremely limited. The fragile judicial system and the weak food security mechanism also affect the stability of the society. Some of the returnee areas are cut off during the rainy season because of poor roads.

STRATEGY

Protection and Solutions

UNHCR will continue to monitor the situation of returnees and will intervene with local authorities if necessary. UNHCR

will liaise with the UN Peacekeeping Force and the UN Civilian Police in order to protect returnees with past links with militias, anti-autonomy groups and ex-civil servants. Reconciliation of all citizens, irrespective of political affiliations, will be promoted to achieve sustainable reintegration. The main focus of protection activities in East Timor will be to provide assistance to the emerging Government to increase its national protection capacity through training and technical advice. This capacity building will be closely co-ordinated with the UN Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET).

Together with Civil Military Affairs (CMA), the UN Peacekeeping Force and Civilian Police, UNTAET and IOM, UNHCR developed operational guidelines for voluntary repatriation that set out the respective responsibilities of the organisations concerned. The guidelines will serve as an emergency management tool in the event of a large-influx of returnees/refugees from West Timor. Contingency planning

has been developed to ensure adequate reception arrangements and distribution of humanitarian assistance.

UNHCR will promote East Timor's eventual accession to the 1951 Convention and 1967 Protocol, while encouraging the relevant authorities to enact refugee legislation and to set up an effective asylum framework. UNHCR will provide relevant training for officials from relevant ministries and NGOs. Civic education campaigns will target various sectors of civil society.

In the aftermath of the killings of UNHCR staff in West Timor and increased instability there, UNHCR is drawing up contingency plans and building up preparedness measures in East Timor in the event of a possible sudden influx of returnees or refugees from West Timor.

Assistance

The aforementioned shelter programme will be the biggest component of UNHCR's assistance programme in East Timor. Before mid-2001, UNHCR plans to complete delivery of the remaining 8,500 units (roofing sheets, timber, cement, nails and tools) to the most needy families, to allow them to build their homes.

UNHCR will continue implementing Quick Impact Projects (QIPs) which complement other multilateral and bilateral assistance programmes. Sectors covered will include income-

generation, water, fisheries and vocational training. QIPs will target communities with high concentrations of returnees, especially those where the reconciliation process is deemed problematic. Income-generating projects and training activities will target female heads of household in order to make them more self-sufficient.

To bridge the gap between initial reintegration and development activities, UNHCR is forging linkages with development specialists such as the World Bank, UNDP, Habitat, the Asian Development Bank and bilateral agencies. UNHCR has advocated that one or several of these agencies should assume responsibility for the shelter reconstruction programme. UNHCR's target of 35,000 units will only cover the most needy families and the country's overall needs are of a far greater order. To date, no firm engagement has been received from any of the development agencies.

In view of the acute trauma that many East Timorese have suffered, UNHCR and other humanitarian agencies will work through local institutions to help people rebuild their lives and regain a sense of dignity. Priority will be given to building the capacity of local NGOs to assume a lead role in psychological and other counselling activities. For female victims of violence and traumatised women, counselling and occupational therapy programmes will continue. Widows and heads of households with many children will be given priority in the UNHCR shel-



ter programme and WFP's food programme for vulnerable groups. Vulnerable families, most of them female-headed families, will be given priority by UNHCR in ad hoc distribution of non-food items. The Office will assist women who wish to join their husbands in West Timor.

Separated and unaccompanied children will continue to be helped to rejoin their families. UNHCR will work closely with the NGO community to address the needs of unemployed youth and physically and mentally handicapped persons.

Desired Impact

UNHCR's protection and assistance activities will have helped returnees and IDPs rebuild their lives and enabled them to contribute to the reconciliation process and, ultimately, to the development of their country. Development agencies will have taken on a bigger role in reintegration and longer-term development activities. The capacity of government authorities and local NGOs will have been strengthened through a range of training activities.

ORGANISATION AND IMPLEMENTATION

Management

UNHCR's main office in Dili is responsible for the operation in East Timor and will continue to co-ordinate all activities relating to the voluntary repatriation of East Timorese, with the support of the offices in Batugade, Baucau, Maliana, Oecussi and Suai. These offices will be gradually scaled down and will be closed by mid-2001, when UNHCR disengages from reintegration activities. In 2001, UNHCR will operate with 56 staff (22 international and 34 national). At the end of 2001, the number of staff will be reduced to five. The team in East Timor will be supported by additional staff put at UNHCR's disposal by United Nations Volunteers, as well as staff seconded by the Danish Refugee Council, Redd Barna, and RedR Australia.

OFFICES

Dili
Batugade
Baucau
Maliana
Oecussi
Suai

Co-ordination

UNHCR will work with 20 international and local NGOs. The office in Dili also actively liaises with UNTAET, UN and development agencies, as well as embassies. In addition, UNHCR is trying to strengthen linkages with multilateral and bilateral development programmes. UNHCR will continue to work closely with the *Conselho Nacional da Resistencia Timorenses* (CNRT), an umbrella organisation for the East Timorese independence movements, the church and traditional leadership structures. UNHCR will continue to co-operate with IOM on repatriation movements, once conditions permit.

PARTNERS

Government Agencies

National Emergency Commission of the *Conselho Nacional da Resistencia Timorenses*

NGOs

Action Internationale contre la Faim

Associaçao Medical International

Australian Red Cross

Caritas Australia

Christian Children's Fund

Communication Forum for East Timorese Women

Cooperazione e Sviluppo

CONCERN

East Timor Women Against Violence

GOAL

Danish Refugee Council

International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims

International Rescue Committee

Médecins sans Frontières

OXFAM Australia

Peace Winds Japan

Psychological Recovery Development in East Timor

Save the Children Fund

Timor Aid

World Vision

Other

International Organisation for Migration

BUDGET (USD)

Activities and Services	Annual Programme
Protection, Monitoring and Co-ordination	566,773
Community Services	150,000
Domestic Needs/Household Support	150,000
Income Generation	425,000
Legal Assistance	425,000
Operational Support (to Agencies)	650,000
Shelter/Other Infrastructure	200,000
Transport/Logistics	1,000,000
Total Operations	3,566,773
Programme Support	3,105,054
Total	6,671,827