

# THE TIMOR SITUATION

## IN SHORT

### Main Objectives

- Provide protection and assistance to refugees outside East Timor.
- Bring about lasting solutions for these refugees by facilitating their voluntary return to East Timor, or local settlement or relocation elsewhere in Indonesia should they so choose.
- Provide for the emergency needs of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in East Timor, help them return to their home areas and support their initial reintegration.
- Ensure an effective transition from initial reintegration assistance to longer-term community rehabilitation, reconciliation and development.
- Prepare a longer-term strategy to see that an independent East Timor enacts adequate refugee legislation and accedes to relevant international conventions.

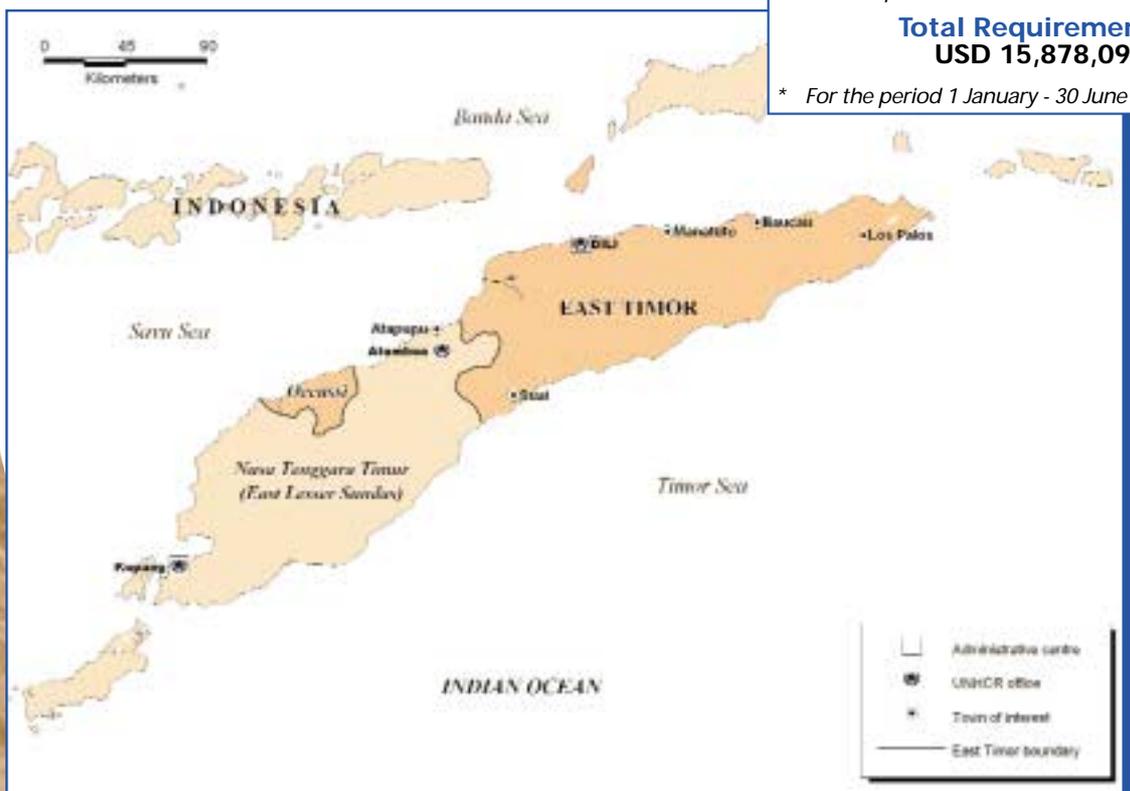
Planning Figures		
Population	Jan. 2000	Dec. 2000
East Timor: IDPs*	350,000	
Returnees	125,000	500,000**
West Timor/ elsewhere: Refugees	75,000	50,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>550,000</b>	<b>550,000</b>

\* In view of limited access it is not possible to ascertain the number of displaced persons who may have returned to their original areas by 1 January 2000.

\*\* While the majority of the returnees are envisaged to have been provided one-time assistance covering relief and shelter items by June 2000, the number of target beneficiaries is retained in recognition of the need to provide further community-based assistance.

**Total Requirements\***  
**USD 15,878,098**

\* For the period 1 January - 30 June 2000



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## WORKING ENVIRONMENT

### Recent Developments

In the aftermath of the August referendum, when the majority of East Timorese voted for independence from Indonesia, more than 75 per cent of the population was displaced and more than 70 per cent of East Timor's private housing, public buildings and utilities were destroyed. Some 200,000 persons were deported to West Timor and other areas of Indonesia. In addition, more than half a million people are believed to have fled to the remote hilly areas in East Timor.

Following the deployment of a multi-national force in October 1999, security was restored in many areas of East Timor and refugees began to return home from West Timor and other parts of Indonesia. By mid-November, over 60,000 had returned. If the current pace of repatriation continues, roughly 150,000 of these refugees will have returned to East Timor by July 2000. By that time, it is also estimated that all internally displaced persons in East Timor, including those in

Oecussi (Ambeno enclave), will have returned to their original homes.

UNHCR, which established a presence in East Timor in June 1999, remained in East Timor during the crisis period. UNHCR subsequently extended its presence to monitor and assist displaced persons not only in East Timor, but also in West Timor, where the Office took the lead role in the coordination of humanitarian assistance.

### Constraints

The prevailing security conditions do not allow UNHCR full and unhindered access to refugees in West Timor and to displaced persons in East Timor. The lack of access makes planning for protection and durable solutions very difficult, as it precludes a sufficiently accurate or comprehensive assessment of needs. Distribution of relief items to the camps in West Timor is restricted and UNHCR does not enjoy sufficient freedom to reliably determine the refugees' real desires for their future.





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## STRATEGY

### Protection and Solutions

UNHCR's primary operational objective is to ensure: protection of, and assistance to East Timorese refugees in West Timor and internally displaced persons in East Timor; the identification and facilitation of appropriate lasting solutions; and their sustainable reintegration.

UNHCR's protection activities in **West Timor** are geared towards obtaining unimpeded access to the refugee camps, ascertaining the refugees' independent choices with regard to their future (return to East Timor, remain in West Timor, or relocate elsewhere in Indonesia) and helping to turn those choices into a lasting reality. A Memorandum of Understanding concluded in October 1999 between UNHCR and the Government of Indonesia set out the terms of cooperation with regard to the Office's protection activities. UNHCR is currently organising an information campaign through existing radio networks, newspapers and information pamphlets, in order to inform the refugees of their freedom of choice, the options available to them, and information relating to the conditions prevailing in East Timor.

As soon as unimpeded access to the refugees is secured, UNHCR will implement a verification/registration exercise, in order to assess the wishes of each household and to ascertain that their choice has been freely made. This exercise will also serve to identify vulnerable groups and ensure that appropriate measures are adopted to address their specific needs. It will also help split families to trace lost relatives.

UNHCR collaborates closely with the Indonesian authorities to ensure the voluntary nature of return, the security of the repatriates and that return takes place in family units.

UNHCR activities in **East Timor** will seek to ensure the safety and well-being of the returnees, and provide protection to minority groups (e.g. Muslims, ethnic Chinese) and other vulnerable groups (e.g. transmigrants, persons in mixed marriages, persons who voted for integration with Indonesia). The Office will undertake the registration of returnees and establish a monitoring mechanism in order to ensure their successful return and reintegration in their areas of origin or choice. This

monitoring system will have a specific focus on vulnerable groups and those with special protection concerns. In conjunction with ICRC, UNHCR will also put in place tracing procedures to facilitate the reunification of split families.

In the longer-term, the Office will, in conjunction with UNTAET, also address problems concerning personal documentation, nationality, property rights and other legal/administrative issues involving the returnees and other persons of concern to UNHCR.

### Assistance

UNHCR's programme in **West Timor** is intended to ensure the protection of and assistance to approximately 50,000 vulnerable refugees from East Timor who choose to remain in Indonesia, it being assumed that about 125,000 East Timorese will have returned from West Timor by January 2000. To this end, UNHCR is establishing a multi-sectoral emergency assistance programme to complement assistance provided by the Government of Indonesia. This includes water, supplementary food for children, the elderly and other vulnerable groups, household needs, the maintenance of temporary camps, transportation, counselling for victims of trauma, therapeutic occupational activities for women and legal assistance. UNHCR's protection monitoring presence will ensure that persons of concern can make a free and informed decision on their long-term future.

In cooperation with the Government of Indonesia, UNHCR will help those who do not wish to return to East Timor to settle locally in West Timor or to voluntarily relocate to other areas in Indonesia.

In **East Timor**, the programme covers reception, onward transportation if necessary, monitoring and initial reintegration assistance for returnees as well as for returning IDPs. Household goods, shelter supplies, seeds and tools will be provided as well as assistance with income-generating activities which target women heads of household. UNHCR will retain the capacity to respond to needs in all other assistance sectors (health, water and sanitation) in case vital tasks cannot be undertaken by other organisations as planned. The programme will focus on areas from which the vast majority of the refugees in West Timor are believed to originate: Dili, Baucau, Liquica, Ermera, Bobonaro, Kova-Lima (Suai) and Oecussi (Ambeno Enclave). Workshops on human rights and refugee law will also be conducted and international

instruments relating to refugees and the Guiding Principles on IDPs will be translated into local languages.

### Desired Impact

UNHCR's protection and assistance activities will ensure the well-being and safety of persons of concern and identify and facilitate lasting solutions to their problems. Initial material assistance to the East Timorese returnees will enable them to ultimately rebuild their lives so that they can contribute to the development of their country.

## ORGANISATION AND IMPLEMENTATION

### Management Structure

The Regional Office in Indonesia is responsible for UNHCR's interests and activities in East and West Timor. The following offices will report to the Regional Representative in Jakarta: Dili, which supervises all field offices in East Timor; Kupang, which supervises Atambua; and Surabaya which serves as a primary logistics hub for the operation. The office in Darwin, reporting to the Regional Office in Canberra, will also provide procurement and logistics support for the Operation.

In 2000, there will be 89 UNHCR staff in Indonesia, including 33 international staff, one Junior Professional Officer and 55 national staff. In East Timor, there will be 45 staff including 15 internationals and 30 national staff. In Darwin, there will be six staff, including three international and three national staff. In addition, five United Nations Volunteers will augment the response capacity of the UNHCR offices in East Timor.

### Coordination

The Regional Office in Indonesia actively liaises with other UN agencies, government counterparts, NGOs and Donor Country Representatives. The UNHCR office in Dili conducts field assessment and monitoring missions in conjunction with representatives of other UN agencies and NGOs, and chairs the Task Force on Shelter Reconstruction for East Timor. The UNHCR offices in Kupang and in Atambua conduct visits to the refugee camps in cooperation with the local authorities, the military and NGO partners.

### Offices

Indonesia: Jakarta  
Atambua  
Kupang  
Surabaya

East Timor: Baucau  
Dili  
Maliana  
Suai

*(Two additional field offices will be established at a later stage)*

Australia: Darwin

### Partners

#### NGOs

Action internationale contre la faim  
Adventist Development and Relief Agency  
American Refugee Committee  
Australian Red Cross  
Catholic Relief Services  
CARE International  
CARITAS Australia  
Christian Children's Fund  
Committee for Local NGOs in East Timor  
Community and Family Services International  
Concern Worldwide  
GOAL  
Indonesian Red Cross  
International Rescue Committee  
Médecins Sans Frontières  
OXFAM Australia  
Peacewinds Japan  
Save the Children Fund  
Timor Aid  
World Vision

#### Other

International Organisation for Migration  
Office of the Governor of NTT, Social Dept. NTT

*\*In the course of the year 2000 other partners may be identified.*

### Budget (USD)

Activities and Services	Supplementary Programme*
Protection, Monitoring and Coordination	2,321,498
Community Services	33,000
Crop Production	300,000
Domestic Needs/ Household Support	841,000
Education	21,000
Food	430,900
Health/Nutrition	56,600
Income Generation	190,000
Legal Assistance	722,500
Livestock	74,000
Operational Support (to Agencies)	423,000
Sanitation	540,300
Shelter/Other Infrastructure	4,505,000
Transport/Logistics	2,845,500
Water (non-agricultural)	245,000
<b>Total Operations</b>	<b>13,549,298</b>
<b>Programme Support</b>	<b>2,328,800</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>15,878,098</b>

\* Budgeted for 6 months (1 January - 30 June 2000)

TIMOR