



IOM TIMOR-LESTE AND DISASTER RISK REDUCTION



BACKGROUND

Timor-Leste can be susceptible to natural hazards and localized disasters such as floods, droughts, landslides, river shifts and erosion due to heavy monsoonal rains, steep topography and prevalent deforestation. These vulnerabilities can severely affect livelihoods, food security, as well as lead to the possible migration of already marginalized communities.

IOM Timor-Leste’s work in disaster risk reduction (DRR) provides support to disaster prone communities across Timor-Leste, in 12 municipalities and 28 sucos. As part of IOMs ‘Disaster Risk Reduction – Building Community Resilience in Timor-Leste Phase III’ program funded by USAID-OFDA, the agency provides technical assistance and advice to strengthen the ability of individuals, communities and government to prevent, prepare for, respond to and recover from, the impacts of disaster.

IOM works closely with the National Disaster Risk Management Directorate (NDRMD) to support the institutional strengthening of disaster risk management governance structures and operations across Timor-Leste. This primarily occurs through the provision intensive trainings to improve coordination between national and sub-national level disaster risk management committees, emergency response planning and multi-agency cooperation. IOM has also supported the development of El Nino response plans, hazard mapping, risk assessments, community-based disaster risk management, resilient livelihood development, early warning systems, DRR policy and strategy, disaster preparedness and emergency response.

In 2017, IOM has delivered emergency response training and awareness raising campaigns in twenty-eight sucos in seven municipalities reaching over 3250 people. While further training for the construction of keyhole gardens as part

of the DRR education program has taken place in twenty-six schools, contributing to improvements in food security and nutrition. This year, IOM has also worked with 15 community radio stations in 12 municipalities to disseminate disaster information, improve pre-disaster preparedness, enhance mitigation and increase public awareness.

IOMs Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Resilience interventions aim to increase the resilience of communities to cope with disasters, as well as ensure that national and local authorities effectively manage displacement situations through advancing mobility-based strategies that promote community, household and personal disaster preparedness and appropriate risk mitigation behaviours. Moving forward, the IOM DRR program will continue to work towards reducing and mitigating the risk of displacement through increasing national capacity, promoting community resilience, expanding public awareness and enhancing emergency response capabilities.

IN 2017:

EMERGENCY RESPONSE TRAINING PARTICIPANTS:	1008
AWARENESS CAMPAIGN PARTICIPANTS:	3250
KEY HOLE GARDEN CONSTRUCTION PARTICIPANTS:	1241
DRR RADIO TRAINING PARTICIPANTS:	198



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