

IOM TIMOR-LESTE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

APRIL – JUNE 2018



HIGHLIGHTS

- **Strengthening Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR):** Suco Nanu adopts Tara Bandu to Minimize Deforestation
- **Enhancing Emergency Response:** Expanding Early Warning System and DRR in the Municipalities
- **Improving Access to Health:** 1486 People are Screened for Tuberculosis (TB) in Ermera, Dili and Bobonaro
- **Countering Human Trafficking:** 254 Participants Attend TIP Trainings and Awareness Sessions in June

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF OF MISSION

In this quarter, the mission continued its operations in Disaster Risk Reduction, Migration Health and Counter-Trafficking. Highlights included: a community-led adoption of a legally binding Tara Bandu to minimize deforestation; the migration health team and the Minister of Health, Dr. Rui Maria de Araujo's visit to rural Sucosin Letefoho and Atsabe to screen for tuberculosis; and the counter-trafficking units TIP training and awareness sessions with local leaders, law enforcement and NGOs in Dili, Bobonaro and Oecusse. This quarter we are also pleased to have supported the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to facilitate an information session on the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM).

The mission's current activities seek to improve the lives of migrants and communities, as well as strengthen Timor-Leste's implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Migration Governance Framework for facilitating orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people through planned and well-managed migration policies. The mission looks forward to working with the government and partners to explore how best we can harness the benefits of migration to support Timor-Leste's long-term development goals.

IOM Timor-Leste is also looking forward to developing a Migration Profile for Timor-Leste, supporting the Ministry of Justice's socialization of the new TIP law and continuing our work in Migration Health in border areas. We appreciate the support from our funding partners OFDA/USAID, J-TIP, IDF and Global Fund through the Ministry of Health. IOM would like to congratulate the people of Timor for holding a peaceful and successful elections and we wish the new government great success as they continue to serve the people of Timor-Leste.

- Wonesai Workington Sithole

IOM TIMOR-LESTE WELCOMES NEW CHIEF OF MISSION WONESAI WORKINGTON SITHOLE



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Opening of the Tara Bandu in Suco Nanu, Cova Lima Municipality @IOM2018

Strengthening Disaster Risk Reduction: Suco Nanu adopts Tara Bandu to Prevent Deforestation

On the 13th April, IOM Timor-Leste supported a Tara Bandu (traditional law ceremony) in suco Nanu located in the Cova Lima municipality. The ceremony was attended by the Fatumea Sub-district Administrator, local police authorities and 115 community members from four sucos

The Tara Bandu to “create peace, live peacefully and protect the natural environment” marks the initiation of a community binding agreement to conserve and take care of the environment, minimize the creation of new disaster risks. It supports a better relationship between man and the environment by placing restrictions on deforestation and burning.

The traditional rules written in the Tara Bandu are an important step towards minimizing the impact of disaster for at-risk communities and strengthening disaster risk reduction (DRR) measures.

Supported by USAID-OFDA, IOM Timor-Leste’s DRR program has been working with communities across Timor-Leste in 28 sucos in seven municipalities to increase community resilience and mitigate the impact of natural and man-made disasters.

Enhancing Emergency Response: Expanding Early Warning System and DRR in the Municipalities

Throughout May and June, IOM Timor-Leste’s Disaster Risk Reduction unit held six consultation meetings on Early Warning System (EWS) and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) with Municipal Disaster Management Committees and local NGOs in Baucau, Ermera, Viqueque, Manufahi, Bobonaro, Manatuto and Cova Lima municipalities.

The aim of the consultation meetings was to identify short-term and long-term priorities and address current gaps in DRR at the municipal level. During the consultations, a number of priority areas were identified, including the need to improve EWS and emergency response mechanisms through trainings, stimulation exercises and the provision of basic infrastructure for forecasting.

IOM Timor-Leste has extensive experience in supporting national, municipal and local authorities to strengthen disaster preparedness and emergency response planning. IOM continues to provide technical assistance and advice to the National Disaster Risk Management Directorate (NDRMD) of Ministry of Social Solidarity (MSS) and communities across Timor-Leste to prevent, prepare for and recover from the impacts of disaster.



Consultation meeting on EWS and DRR in Manufahi @IOM2018

On the 20th April, IOM supported the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to facilitate an information session on the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM). His Excellency the Minister of Foreign Affairs Prof. Dr. Aurelio Guterres, IOM Senior Regional Policy and Liaison Officer Mariko Tomiyama and representatives from several ministries attended the information session.

The GCM will be the first intergovernmental negotiated agreement prepared under the guidance of the United Nations General Assembly, to cover all dimensions of international migration. Timor-Leste’s active participation

in the GCM process provides an important opportunity for the country to share its national perspective and realities, as well as contribute to improving international cooperation on migration and human mobility.

IOM’s experience working in the field of migration places it in a unique position to support the preparatory and negotiation process of the GCM alongside a number of UN organisations. IOM looks forward to continuing to support the Government of Timor-Leste throughout the GCM process and implementation.



IOM Health team with the Minister of Health in Ermera municipality @IOM2018

Improving Access to Health: 1486 People are Screened for Tuberculosis (TB) in Ermera, Dili and Bobonaro

On the 12th and 13th April the IOM Migration Health team accompanied his Excellency the Minister of Health, Dr. Rui Maria de Araujo to rural sucos in Letefoho and Atsabe as part of the Ministry of Health (MoH) Saude na Familia program.

Over two days, IOM screened 147 patients for TB, and 45 sputum samples were sent for GeneXpert testing. The team conducted both house-to-house and group screenings, as well as TB health promotion. Patients with a positive sputum sample are referred to the MoH for treatment and the TB screening data is incorporated into patient's medical records of Saude na Familia.

Further screening activities were undertaken in congregate settings in Dili at the National University of Timor-Leste (UNTL) and in Science for Life Schools (SOLS) in Balibar and Metinaro. From the 18th June – 6th July the migration health team also conducted screenings in Cailaco sub-district in Bobonaro municipality. The team travelled to eight sucos and screened patients at twenty different locations. A total of 1032 people were screened with 205 sputum samples sent for GeneXpert testing.

The team also provided training for Promotor Saude Familia (health care volunteers) at the Cailaco-Health Centre. In total 45 PSFs (F: 21, M: 24) were trained in TB diagnosis, prevention, treatment and contact tracing.

Since 2017, the migration health team has screened 5,673 people. IOM is a unique position to work closely alongside the MoH to provide screening for high-risk groups. This program is a first of its kind and will contribute to producing the first evidence-based research for prevalence rates in Timor-Leste.

Over the coming months, the Migration Health team will continue to support the Ministry of Health's National Tuberculosis Program to raise awareness, improve health seeking behaviours and increase access to TB diagnosis with ongoing screening activities in Cailaco, Maliana and Lolotoe sub-districts.

Countering Human Trafficking: 254 Participants Attend TIP Trainings and Awareness Sessions in June

From the 13th – 28th June, the IOM counter-trafficking team conducted refresher trainings on victim identification and referral, psychosocial support (PSS) and a Trafficking in Persons (TIP) awareness session with local leaders, law enforcement, and local non-governmental organizations in Dili, Bobonaro and Oecusse.

The refresher trainings support stakeholders to strengthen victim protection and referral mechanisms, as well as provide psychosocial support services to TIP victims. As a result of the trainings, participants increased their understanding of how to deal with and refer victims of trafficking (VOTs) according TIP standard operating procedures. A total of 104 (F: 49, M: 55) participants attended the two-day trainings.

Additionally, the team also facilitated a TIP awareness session with 150 (F: 13 M:137) law enforcement officers. This session provides an introduction to the new TIP law and penal code articles related to TIP crime and Immigration law, and highlights some of the challenges facing the judiciary system in combating TIP in Timor-Leste.

IOM Timor-Leste with the support of J-TIP operates within the context of counter-trafficking prevention, technical cooperation, direct assistance and research. Refresher trainings and TIP awareness sessions aim to strengthen institutional capacity to combat human trafficking improve victim identification and increase public awareness in Timor-Leste.



IOM Staff conduct TIP Awareness Session with law enforcement in Bobonaro @IOM2018

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