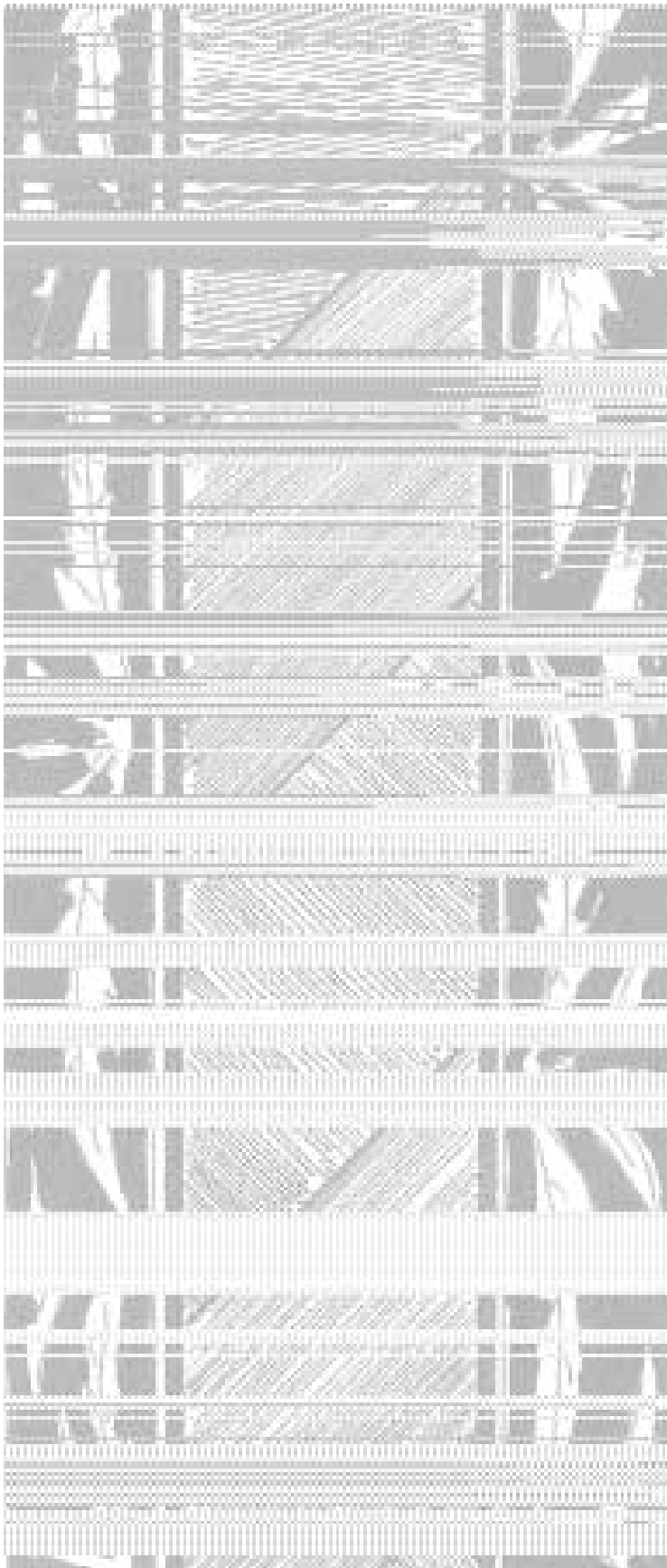


# East Timor *Update*

December 2000/

January 2001



## Table of Contents

Introduction.....	1
Humanitarian Situation.....	2
Infrastructure.....	3
Social Services.....	4
Education	
Health	
Political Development.....	5
Environment	
Institutional Development.....	7
Civil Registry	
Regulations	
Border Control	
Media Development.....	8
Radio	
Television	
Journalists Congress	
Economic Development.....	9
Private Sector	
Labour	
Agriculture	
Rule of Law.....	10
Judiciary	
Civilian Police	
East Timor Police Service	
Human Rights.....	12
Gender Affairs	
Peace and Security.....	13
Security Situation	
Civil Military Affairs	
Trust Fund Update.....	14
Acronyms.....	15
East Timor Transitional Administration.....	16



## I N T R O D U C T I O N

A group of 170 refugees, out of some 250 who visited East Timor for a one-month “come and see” visit during the Christmas holidays, organized by UNTAET and the International Organization for Migration (IOM), returned back by boat to West Timor on 17 January. About 80 of the remaining returnees have chosen to stay in East Timor.

Some of the returning refugees said that they were impressed by the overall security condition in the country and that they were planning to return to East Timor as soon as possible. They pledged to encourage other East Timorese refugees to return to their homes.

Staff from the IOM and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) were on board to accompany the refugees. The ship arrived in Kupang, West Timor, on 19 January.

The refugees came from camps in the vicinity of Kupang and visited their homes in Aileu, Ainaro, Baucau, Dili, Lautem, Manufahi and Viqueque.

A tax on wages was introduced on 1 January. The amendment to Regulation 2000/18 on a Taxation System for East Timor also introduces new tax arrangements for business income tax, and amends the taxes applying to imports.

In its first formal session of the year, the East Timor Transitional Cabinet endorsed a draft regulation that would establish a Central Civil Registry for the country (see *Institutional Development*).

On 26 December 2000, CNRT President Xanana Gusmão embarked on a countrywide tour to further discuss results of the CNRT National Congress.

The President of Brazil, Fernando Henrique Cardoso, visited East Timor on 22 January. President Cardoso held private meetings with SRSG Sergio Vieira de Mello, members of the East Timor Transitional Cabinet, CNRT President Xanana Gusmão and Bishop Belo. President Cardoso also attended a special session of the National Council, visited the Brazilian Contingent and officially inaugurated the

Brazilian mission in East Timor.

Harri Holkeri, the President of the 55th Session of the United Nations General Assembly, visited East Timor from 12 to 14 January. He met with Mr. Vieira de Mello, UN Peacekeeping Force Commander Lt. General Boonsrang Niumpradit, CNRT President Xanana Gusmão and CNRT Vice President Mario Carrascalao, among others.

Mr. Holkeri also traveled to Suai, where he met with the District Administrator and visited UN-PKF Sector West Headquarters and the site of the 1999 church massacre.

Portuguese Foreign Minister Jaime Gama arrived in Dili on 16 January for a four-day visit as a follow-up to his visit with the Portuguese President in February last year.

Mr. Gama met with several UNTAET senior officials, including Mr. Vieira de Mello, Force Commander Lt. General Niumpradit and UN Civilian Police (CivPol) Commissioner José Costa e Sousa, as well as Mr. Gusmão and other Timorese leaders and Cabinet Members. Mr. Gama visited Oecussi, Aileu and Lospalos Districts.

On 17 January, the Foreign Minister presided over the inauguration ceremony of the Portuguese Cultural Center of Dili.

The UNTAET-assisted Timor Lorosa'e Journalist Association held a congress from 10 to 13 January. Some 130 journalists participated from all media in East Timor (see *Media Development*).

In his New Year's message, CNRT President Xanana Gusmão emphasized the need for democracy in East Timor, though he warned against simply copying a political system from others. His concern was that “the Timorese may become detached from reality and, above all, try to copy something which is not clearly understood by them. It is necessary that we are sincere and humble so that we do not lose track of the high interests of our People. Democracy is not built overnight and it is by experiencing the system that democracy can be shaped.” Elections would be the focal point of the political process “for it will confer legitimacy to political acts,” he added.

The New Year started out with some violent disturbances in Dili.

A person died on 3 January after clashes in Dili between two rival gangs. This was the first public disturbance on a large scale since last April, when five people were injured in gang-related violence.

In another incident, two foreigners were arrested by UNTAET's Civilian Police (CivPol) following a brawl outside a restaurant in Dili. (see *Peace and Security*).

In early January 2001, the Muslim community living in the Dili mosque was subjected to acts of violence and harassment, resulting in property damage and injuries. A press statement from the office of the DSRSG said that such incidents of inter-communal violence were unacceptable, and were condemned by UNTAET.

The statement further noted that "UNTAET is committed to the building of a peaceful, democratic society in East Timor. At the heart of any democratic society lies tolerance and the protection of minority rights. The Muslim minority in East Timor will therefore enjoy exactly the same rights and benefits, including protection by the authorities, as any other social, religious or ethnic group. An equally firm attitude will be taken by UNTAET towards inter-communal violence coming from any other source, using whatever pretext or justification."

To demonstrate his personal commitment to these fundamental principles, and to learn first-hand about the situation of the 250 mosque residents, Jean-Christian Cady, Acting Transitional Administrator and Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General, visited the mosque on 3 January. He was accompanied by UNTAET Chief of Staff N. Parameswaran.

The visit followed a call on Mr. Cady the previous day by three leaders of the Muslim community. During a 90-minute meeting, which included top representatives of CivPol, the UN Peacekeeping Force (UN-PKF) and UNTAET's Office of Human Rights Affairs, the Acting Transitional Administrator was told about two attacks on the mosque and its residents by a gang of youths.

Mr. Cady assured the mosque leaders that adequate protection would be provided, and that steps would be taken to bring an end to the intimidation suffered by the community. On different

occasions in the past prominent members of the East Timorese leadership, including Bishop Carlos Ximenes Belo, CNRT/NC President Xanana Gusmão and Vice-President Jose Ramos-Horta, have all visited the mosque to lend support to its community. They have repeatedly urged that the well-being and safety of the mosque's residents be respected.



## HUMANITARIAN SITUATION

As of 10 January, total repatriation to East Timor was 174, 559. This number does not include the persons who arrived on the IOM-chartered vessel on 23 December 2000. It is expected that the number of returnees will gradually increase over the coming weeks as the Indonesian Task Force for Refugees (SATGAS) resumes work and the newly installed TNI Battalion gains experience.

In late November, the vessel Patricia Anne-Hotung arrived in the port of Com, Lautem District, carrying 405 refugees, many of whom were former members of the Indonesian military and their families. The majority of them were taken to transit facilities while others were taken directly back to their villages. A team of human rights officers closely monitored the reintegration of the returnees. Two meetings held in Denpasar between UNTAET, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the TNI, had paved the way for the joint repatriation operation.

Tensions between the East Timor refugees and local residents flared up when the refugees, many from Tuapukan camp in Kupang, the main city in West Timor, attacked the Poto resettlement camp 80 kilometres (50 miles) east of Kupang. About 100 houses, mostly belonging to local residents, were reportedly looted and burned. Complaints about food distribution by the Indonesian government lay at the heart of the tension.

A group of 244 refugees arrived by boat in East Timor for a Christmas visit organized by UNTAET and the IOM. Refugees from camps in

the vicinity of Kupang were screened and registered at the Dili Transit Centre and transported to their home districts of Aileu, Ainaro, Baucau, Lautem, Manufahi and Viqueque, where they met their families.

Field Officers from UNHCR met the visitors upon their arrival at the Dili Port and monitored the well being of the visitors during their stay. An additional 100 Christmas visitors arrived in the East Timor enclave of Oecussi. Eight refugee leaders from the camps in West Timor went to Baucau for a one-day "come and see" visit. Speeches were given by the guests, as well as local representatives from FALINTIL and CNRT. The returnees, who also met with the Baucau District Administrator, said that they would pass on the message to refugees that East Timor is peaceful and safe. On 18 January 171 of the visiting refugees returned from Dili to Kupang on the Patricia-Anne Hotung.

On 5 and 6 January, a Vatican envoy led talks between bishops from West and East Timor on how to reconcile the rival East Timorese factions. Bishop Petrus Turang of Kupang travelled to Dili to meet with Dili's Bishop Carlos Ximenes Belo and Baucau's Bishop Basilio do Nascimento. Bishop Anton Pain Ratu of Atambua, a West Timor border town with a large number of refugees, joined the talks in the hill town of Dare outside of Dili. The talks focused on reconciliation between pro-independence and anti-independence East Timorese, with the aim of resolving the refugee problem.

An estimated 100,000 refugees remain in West Timor camps. The four bishops said that many East Timorese refugees in West Timor want to return to their homeland and called for a smooth return of the refugees, in a joint statement issued at the end of a two-day conference. The statement also said the church was ready to promote reconciliation between pro-independence East Timorese and those who opposed the territory's breakaway from Indonesia.

In Manatuto District, the issue of establishing a safe house for the returnees who may face hostilities was considered in a meeting with Officers of the Philippine Battalion, UN Civilian Police (CivPol), a UNHCR regional representative and the Acting District Adviser to the DA. Not only

will the safety of the returnees be ensured, they will also be provided with basic facilities.



## I N F R A S T R U C T U R E

A lack of spare parts and severe budgetary constraints has prevented the Power Service from repairing faults with the generators, which is causing frequent power cuts all around Dili, power officials said. However, they say the situation in the capital will soon improve.

Since the beginning of 2000, the electricity load has doubled, as a direct result of an increase in commercial activity as well as an increase in the number of internationals in Dili. Illegal connections and branches touching power lines also contribute to power outages.

Through the assistance of a Japanese Government programme, the Comoro power station has been rehabilitated. The project is also paying for spare parts, which were expected to arrive in Dili before Christmas.

In an effort to monitor the use of electricity, the Central Fiscal Authority (CFA) and the Cabinet agreed to the installation of electricity meters for large consumers and commercial establishments so that they can be monitored and charged for their electricity use. Some 50 meters have already been installed on the premises of large consumers such as the United Nations, non-governmental organizations and hotels, and an additional 100 at other commercial establishments that use a significant amount of electricity. Some 2,000 meters will be installed by the end of January. In addition, 2,000 meters installed prior to the arrival of the United Nations are to be repaired and calibrated during January.

Workers began construction in late November of a temporary pumping system as part of the initial phase of a two-year, US\$3.36 million project to rehabilitate the irrigation system in Manatuto District. Around 700 hectares have been lying fallow for up to four years. The project is funded by the Japanese Government, with the work carried out by Dai Nippon Corporation.

The project's initial pumping system to get water from the river into the canals and the rice

fields will be used only until a more permanent structure can be built next year at a cost of US\$750,000.

In addition, over 40 contracts for minor irrigation projects in East Timor have been signed between the East Timor Transitional Administration's Agricultural Department and local communities in all 13 districts.

Urgent rehabilitation of irrigation canals and rural access roads were completed before the rainy season. The projects, which include digging out and removing silt from the canal systems, cost US\$344,600 and are paid for by the Trust Fund for East Timor and carried out by the communities themselves.

Currently, 14 agricultural access roads - a total of 50 kilometers of roads leading to fields and farms - are being rehabilitated at a cost of US\$96,600.



## S O C I A L S E R V I C E S

### **Education**

The Japanese Government contributed US\$658,000 to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to support 300 East Timorese students in Indonesia through a scholarship programme. The donation will cover tuition fees, living allowances and other expenditures for the students at universities and other tertiary educational institutions throughout Indonesia, as well as additional needs for students already supported by the Indonesian Government and the Ford Foundation.

The objective of the scholarship programme is to strengthen the present and future human resource pool in East Timor. The support is also given with the intention of encouraging interaction between Indonesian and East Timorese youth, which in turn will strengthen relations between the two countries.

The rehabilitation of another 100 schools throughout East Timor has started under the East Timor Transitional Administration's Emergency School Readiness Project (ESRP). Basic materials, such as cement, tools and timber have been

distributed. One hundred and fifty schools have already been refurbished under the project.

In response to recent demands for additional teachers, some 1,000 teachers are currently being recruited and will be ready to start working by the end of January. A meeting was held at the Education Division with the District Education Officers to discuss the modalities of the recruitment.

In addition, 14 contracts have been signed with local furniture firms to produce 20,000 pieces of chairs and desks to be used in the schools of East Timor. Production will start in early February and is expected to be completed by the end of that month. The bidding documents have been sent out for another 30,000 sets of furniture to be bought abroad. It is expected that the imported furniture will be available for use by February as well.

Some 1,060,000 books from Indonesia were distributed to primary and high schools in all districts and 98,000 books from Portugal were distributed to secondary schools. A second order of 200,000 picture books from Finland is due in January for first graders in all districts.

### **Health**

An inter-agency UNAIDS team that recently visited East Timor completed its report on the short- and long-term strategies for the prevention of HIV/AIDS and Sexual Transmitted Infections (STI).

The report recommends the creation of a United Nations Coordination Unit that would support the effective implementation of HIV/AIDS and STI-preventive activities. The Unit would function as a focal point for UN co-sponsors of HIV/AIDS/STI activities and coordinate the work between the Division of Health Services, NGOs, and other UN departments. The report also recommends that priority be given to informing the East Timorese population about HIV/AIDS and its prevention among four main groups - students at school, other youth in the community, women in reproductive age and commercial sex workers.

The Division of Health Services and the World Bank agreed to provide a total of US\$15,000 to rehabilitate the Dili slaughterhouse

which is known as “Matadouro”.

The building is currently being used as the office of the local chefe de suco. As soon as the Dili District Administration has found an alternative building for the suco chief, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) has agreed to rehabilitate that office. Work on the slaughterhouse building will start immediately thereafter.

The slaughterhouse will be used for cows, buffalo, and other large animals.



## POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT

The East Timor Transitional Cabinet has agreed to a proposal to establish a Commission for Truth, Reception and Reconciliation.

The Commission will focus its activities in three areas: facilitating the reintegration of East Timorese returnees, establishing a historical record about human rights abuse, and recommending legal and institutional safeguards to protect human rights in the future.

The Cabinet recognized the urgency of finalizing a draft regulation to establish the Commission, and referred to the National Council for consideration.

The Cabinet also agreed that the Council should consider the significant and sensitive question of the Transitional Administration’s land policy. The Cabinet agreed that it would refer to the National Council its 25 October policy decision on the land functions that should be undertaken during the period of the Transitional Administration.

The policy view is that fundamental questions relating to the final settlement of land claims and land title should be deferred to a duly elected government and legislature.

From 26 December to 14 January, CNRT President Xanana Gusmão embarked on a countrywide tour in order to discuss the results of the CNRT National Congress.

The National Council has approved the transition calendar presented by CNRT President Xanana Gusmão, “with the understanding that the proposal contained broad guidelines to be observed and was not a static and dogmatic docu-

ment”. The Council also moved that the details of the calendar’s implementation be reviewed by the Standing Committee on Political Affairs, which was to have reported to the Council by 12 January.

Council Speaker Mr. Gusmão first took the floor and explained the main points of the document. Several members took the floor afterwards and expressed their opinions on a wide range of issues regarding the calendar, in particular on the necessity for a strong civic education program. They also talked about the need to urgently consider the regulation on political party registration, to settle problems related to party names and flags, and to agree on a civil and electoral registration. Some members voiced the need for caution when choosing a date of independence while others expressed concern with the pace of the Timorization process of the Transitional Administration.

In its last formal session before the National Council recessed for the end of 2000, the body voted to approve a motion on labour issues presented by Council member Avelino Coelho da Silva. The motion addressed labour issues related to drivers working for the World Food Programme (WFP). According to Mr. Coelho da Silva, the WFP hired Timorese drivers on unfavorable labour conditions for the Timorese - including contracts signed in English, low salaries and long working hours - a situation observed throughout East Timor.

In order to improve labour relations, Mr. Coelho da Silva proposed, among other things; that the Transitional Administration implement the existing Indonesian Labour Law and other related International Conventions; that the Standing Committee on Internal Administration and Social Affairs be instructed to prepare a Labour Law to replace the existing Indonesian Labour Law; and that a minimum wage be established in the country.

In recent weeks there have been some indications of corruption in the East Timor Transitional Administration (ETTA) procurement system involving East Timorese and foreign companies. Price fixing and collusion have been detected. In order to address this problem, the ETTA Contracts Committee is now in place with the task

of formally reviewing all major contracts. In addition, the Procurement Policy Committee has been formed in accordance with UNTAET Regulation 2000/10 and these two committees are actively involved in efforts to deal with corruption.

Proactive steps are planned to help redress the procurement practices used in the past. To help the East Timor business people understand the procurement process and to be able to compete for contracts, ETTA is also planning to open a Procurement Advisory Center in Dili, which will be comprised of East Timorese and internationals. This facility is a multilateral project supported by United Nations agencies and international financial institutions. The purpose of the Center is capacity building of the local business community. Such an initiative will enhance the business prospects of the local contractors and suppliers and at the same time establish a competitive market to support the new administration.

ETTA's Office of National Disaster Management will be in place by February 2001. The Office, to be staffed by five Timorese and two internationals, will be responsible for the implementation of a disaster response structure for use during the upcoming wet season, among other things. Three Timorese have already been hired and are currently undergoing training.

The office is following a National Disaster Management Plan, which was drafted by a United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) consultant who recently visited East Timor and staff from a Disaster Preparedness Working Group, comprised of UNTAET departments, the Peacekeeping Force, UN agencies and NGOs. The National Disaster Management Plan recommends the design of a co-ordination system to prepare for and respond to natural disasters, as well as giving practical advice, such as keeping drainage canals clear, reinforcing roofs and keeping food reserves. It also identifies areas especially vulnerable to heavy rains in East Timor. These are, for example, steep slopes with poor vegetation due to deforestation, and other areas where the soil is unstable.

The Disaster Management Plan will be presented before the East Timor Transitional Cabinet shortly.

An electoral team is preparing the initial plans

and designing the appropriate tools necessary for preparing, conducting and managing credible UN led elections in East Timor. Within that framework, special emphasis will be made on considering sustainability and capacity-building in all aspects of electoral planning. The purpose of this focus is to position the East Timorese to hold elections with minimal external assistance. The Australian Government is providing significant capacity building assistance to the Electoral Affairs Division.

The electoral planning and design team is working within the Electoral Affairs Division of the Department of Political, Constitutional, and Electoral Affairs. The team will operate up to 31 January, at which time it will become part of the Electoral Management Body in charge of organizing and conducting the elections.

### **Environment**

The Environmental Protection Unit has drafted a policy paper on pollution prevention from oil handling, aimed at encouraging oil companies to avoid spilling oil products on the ground and keeping it from reaching the ground water.

There are no procedures in the Indonesian penal code for the transportation of fuel and oil handling. The Unit is hoping that the policy paper will draw fuel companies' attention to the importance of, for example, providing bulk storage tanks with a secondary protective layer or training company staff in emergency response procedures and environment protection.

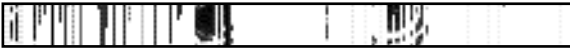
Meanwhile, a team consisting of environment experts from Norway is in East Timor to study environment problems facing the territory. They are expected to stay for four months and assist three environment experts from East Timor in their work.

The team is traveling around the territory, organizing workshops and meetings at the village and district levels.

The project is funded with approximately US\$200,000 by the Norwegian Government through the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and is supported by the Environmental Protection Unit.

In addition, the EPU is undertaking a survey of illegal dumpsites in and around Dili and

Liquiça. The survey will be used as a background for a policy paper that will be passed on to the Cabinet and reviewed with the aim of eventually passing a regulation which will prohibit people to dump garbage in undesignated areas.



## INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

A tax on wages was introduced on 1 January. The amendment to Regulation 2000/18 on a Taxation System for East Timor, signed by Transitional Administrator Sergio Vieira de Mello, also introduces new tax arrangements for business income tax and amends the taxes applying to imports.

The new regulation has the approval of the East Timor Transitional Cabinet and the National Council. The revenue collected from these taxes goes to fund the East Timor Consolidated Budget.

A tax on wages will only apply to East Timorese who earn more than US\$100 per month. Ten per cent will be extracted from all earnings between \$100 and \$650 per month. A tax of 30 per cent will be extracted from all earnings above \$650 per month.

For example, a person earning US\$150 dollars per month will pay US\$5 dollars in wages tax. A person earning US\$300 dollars month will pay US\$20 dollars in wages tax each month. Those earning more than US\$650 per month will pay 30 per cent of their wages over US\$650 per month. For example, a person earning US\$1000 per month will pay US\$160 of tax each month.

Employers are responsible for deducting the wages tax from the pay packets of employees and pay it to the East Timor Revenue Service (ETRS) directly. Employees will not have to deal with the Revenue Service and will not have to complete annual tax returns. Consistent with international conventions, employees of foreign governments and international staff of the United Nations are exempt from paying wages tax.

ETRS Officers are distributing information kits to businesses about the new business income tax arrangements. Businesses must register with the ETRS for the purposes of wages and income

taxes.

## Civil Registry

The new Central Civil Registry of the East Timorese Transitional Administration (ETTA) opened on 6 December. The office enables East Timorese to register births, marriages and deaths and to obtain certification of these events. CNRT President Xanana Gusmão and his wife, Kirsty, received the first ETTA birth certificate on behalf of their recently born child at the Registry's opening ceremony.

In its first formal session of 2000, the East Timor Transitional Cabinet endorsed a draft regulation that would establish a Central Civil Registry for the country. The draft regulation will now be forwarded to the National Council for its consideration.

The Central Civil Registry will register all residents of East Timor and provide them with an identity card. The draft legislation makes registration mandatory for all residents. The Civil Registry will also collect data to be used to compile electoral lists by the duly authorized bodies.

The Civil Registration process is one of ETTA's biggest undertakings and it is part of the final phase of establishing structures for an independent state. There will be Civil Registration in every sub-district and every village in order to ensure registration of the entire population. The Civil Registration process is supported by significant assistance from the German Government.

The Cabinet also approved in principle two grant agreements, one under the Trust Fund for East Timor and from the German Government, which will provide technical assistance to train and build capacity in the economic and finance activities of ETTA.

## Regulations

The Cabinet agreed, in principle, to a proposal to increase the proportion of funds that the Head of the Central Fiscal Authority may transfer between the goods and services and capital components of existing budgetary appropriations.

The Cabinet Member for Finance would further develop the details of such a proposal, which would entail an amendment to regulation 2000/20. Cabinet specifically endorsed the trans-

fer of funds from the goods and services component to the capital component of the budget allocated to support the National University of East Timor, and will refer this to the National Council for approval. Currently, only ten per cent of the appropriation can be moved within the same department.

The Cabinet also considered a proposal to improve existing environmental protections in the territory. The Cabinet endorsed a technical amendment to Regulation 2000/19 on protected places, relating to the purchase of endangered species. That regulation only prohibited the selling of these items. The Cabinet noted that existing Indonesian law prohibits the sale, purchase and possession of endangered species or products made from endangered species. If approved by the National Council, the new legislation will contain a ban on sales, purchase and possession of these items.

An amendment was made to the regulation on the establishment of the National Council and three additional representatives will be added to the 33 member Council, making the total number 36. The representatives will be selected at the discretion of the Transitional Administrator from the CNRT or from political parties outside the CNRT or from both.

### **Border Control**

The Joint Border Committee, established in September to deal with practical issues or cross-border problems, met on 30 November in Denpasar, Indonesia, to deal with technicalities on setting up the committee.

UNTAET and the Indonesian Government agreed to give priority to starting subcommittees on security, police cooperation and cross-border movement of people and goods. The two sides also made a priority the establishment of another subcommittee to facilitate the free movement of East Timorese and Indonesians who live near the border for family and other personal reasons, in a so-called Soft Border Management arrangement.

Representatives from the Foreign Ministries of both counties will be appointed as liaisons to the Committee.

The UNTAET delegation was led by the Cabinet Member for Political Affairs, Peter

Galbraith, and consisted of representatives from different UNTAET departments, including two graduates from East Timor's first diplomatic training course.



## **MEDIA DEVELOPMENT**

### **Radio**

Radio UNTAET started transmitting from Oecussi on 22 December, bringing to eight the total number of transmitting stations on the FM network. With broadcasts now up in all the border regions including Covalima and Bobonaro, Radio UNTAET can be heard deep into West Timor, reaching most of the refugee camps. By the end of January, Radio UNTAET will be broadcasting from two new sites, Lospalos and Ermera, and will then reach virtually the entire East Timor population.

Most East Timorese can now regularly receive news, information and entertainment on the service, which is broadcast out of Dili. The frequencies are: Dili-91.5 FM and 684 AM; Ainaro-96.3 FM and 93.1 FM; Aileu- 90.9 FM; Baucau- 105.1 FM; Ermera- 90.1 FM; Liquica- 99.5 FM; Lospalos- 97.1 FM; Maliana- 88.7 FM; Manatuto- 94.5 FM; Oecussi- 92.1 FM; Same- 96.3 FM; Suai-93.1 FM; and Viqueque- 98.5 FM.

Some 7,500 radios, donated by the Japanese Government, are being distributed by UNTAET to the districts and subdistricts over the next few weeks.

### **Television**

Televizaun Timor Lorosa'e started broadcasting on 8 January a daily (Monday to Friday) 15 minute news-programme. The programme which airs at 7:00 pm will increase in length to a half-hour, as soon as there are additional resources available.

A weekly one-hour magazine-format programme is planned for February, which will contain documentaries on East Timor, as well as a weekly roundup of the news.

## Journalists Congress

The UNTAET-assisted Timor Lorosa'e Journalists Association (TLJA) held its inaugural congress from 10 to 13 January. Topics of the congress ranged from freedom of press and media ethics to the protection of women and children in the media.

The TLJA was formed on 22 December 1999 as an independent, non-governmental organization for the purpose of promoting press freedom and freedom of expression in East Timor.

Journalists attending the congress declared their desire to build an independent and free press for their new nation out of the ashes of destruction left behind by the Indonesian occupation. More than 150 delegates attended the three-day meeting, representing the 14 new media organizations formed in the UN-administered territory since a 1999 referendum voted overwhelmingly for independence from Indonesia.

The congress was broadcast live on Radio Ramkabian, a new student-run Dili community radio station, which timed its debut to coincide with the congress. There are four radio stations in the territory, two daily newspapers and eight other publications, all of which have begun operating since late 1999. The pro-Indonesia militia initiated violence that followed the referendum destroyed almost all media infrastructure in East Timor.

While East Timor has relatively few experienced journalists, the TLJA delegates said the association would coordinate training efforts and work to build a code of ethics and standards for the press.

The congress was organized locally and supported by UNTAET, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the World Press Freedom Committee, the Freedom Forum, the Alliance of Independent Journalists (Jakarta) and the Media Entertainment and Arts Alliance of Australia.



## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

### Private Sector

The Portuguese bank Banco Nacional

Ultramarino (BNU) has been issued an indefinite license by the East Timor Transitional Administration (ETTA) Central Payments Office (CPO) to operate as a commercial bank in East Timor. After getting special permission from Transitional Administrator Sergio Vieira de Mello, BNU started operating in East Timor in late November 1999, though it received its full banking license only last December. The initial purpose of the bank, which operated in East Timor from 1906 to 1975, was to resume payments for East Timorese pensioners. It also provides other banking services such as money exchange, international transfers, deposits and loans. The CPO has also issued a preliminary approval to the Australian and New Zealand Bank (ANZ) - which is expected to open a banking office, as well as a currency exchange bureau, in Dili in late January.

ETTA's Investment Institute and a local newspaper, Timor Post, agreed on 3 January to produce a business directory. Interested companies will be listed for free provided that they are already registered with ETTA's Business Registration Unit. About 400 businesses will be included in the directory, which will be printed in English and Tetun and go on sale in early March. The proceeds will go to Timor Post to cover printing and production costs.

The Australian airline Qantas has confirmed that it will discontinue air services from Darwin, Australia to East Timor by the end of January. The airline began flying twice daily, four days a week, to the capital Dili, in May 2000. It upgraded the service to seven days a week in August but says customer demand has since fallen, and the service is no longer commercially viable. It is currently negotiating with Air North, which also operates twice daily flights from Darwin to Dili, about carrying Qantas passengers.

Around 40 Japanese and Australian ecotourists have visited East Timor since the beginning of December 2000. The tourists principally scuba dive in areas off Atauro Island, Manatuto and Liquiça. Their numbers remain small, reportedly due to a lack of accommodation and infrastructure, as well as the relatively high cost of such trips. Obrio, an India-based hotel group, has looked into the prospect of building a four-star

hotel with 150 rooms in Dili and has met with ETTA's Division of Commerce Industry and Tourism to discuss the possibility. Some of the obstacles for the hotel chain are the uncertainties over land tenure and the 30 percent tax rate on businesses.

The first fisheries license was issued to a Taiwanese based company, which will harvest sea cucumbers in Manatuto and Baucau. On 2 December, ETTA and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) approved a US\$4.2 million Micro-finance Development Project Grant to be administered by the Division of Commerce, Industry and Tourism. The grant will provide credit to the poorest sectors of society, especially women, to generate income opportunities.

### **Labour**

The Central Payments Office (CPO) recruited an additional 15 East Timorese staff out of 90 applicants for various positions in its office. Including the ones who were hired, the office currently has 26 East Timorese staff. Four successful applicants were women. Senior staff from the CPO, the ETTA and the ADB carried out the interviews. The new staff is expected to start their functions early this year.

The final selection process for the position of a Timorese Dili District Administrator was completed by the Office of Civil Service and Public Employment (CISPE) on 13 December. The appointment is expected to be made shortly by the Transitional Administrator. CISPE also interviewed 36 candidates for five positions in the Department of Agriculture and 16 for positions in the public administration.

Around 6,000 East Timorese have been hired to date as permanent civil servants. That's about 60 per cent of the total allocated in the budget for hire. The recruitment priority is on the three highest levels in the salary scale which constitutes a total of 900 positions. Only 23 per cent of such posts have been filled so far.

Seventeen candidates will be interviewed shortly for the highest levels within the administration including positions in the Education Division for Director of Culture, Director of the Institution for Continuing Education, Deputy Head of the Division of Education, Director of

Literacy and Non Formal Education and District Superintendents for each of the 13 districts.

The Department of Foreign Affairs started internal recruitment of 20 local staff. The Department has been given the authority by CISPE to conduct the recruitment for various positions, including policy officers, executive assistants, assistant protocol officers and a director of public affairs. The positions are open to both male and female applicants from the 50 East Timorese who graduated from the Diplomatic Training Course in August 2000 in Dili.

### **Agriculture**

The Animal Vaccination Campaign carried out by ETTA's Division of Agricultural Affairs is about to be completed. Over 100,000 buffalo and Bali cattle have been vaccinated against acute haemorrhagic septicemia, a fatal bacterial disease. The campaign, which was launched last October, will finish by the middle of January, with over 112,000 animals having been vaccinated.

Following a survey carried out by the Division of Agricultural Affairs, cases of hog cholera, an infectious disease found in pigs, have been discovered in East Timor. To prevent the disease from spreading, a campaign to vaccinate pigs has been launched. It is expected that up to half of the country's estimated 260,000 pigs will be vaccinated before mid-February.



## **R U L E O F L A W**

### **Judiciary**

On 10 January, two separate preliminary hearings took place, involving a former militia member and a man belonging to the pro-independence movement.

The former Dadurus Merah Putih (Red White Tornado) militia member admitted to killing the village chief of Ritabou village on 8 September 1999 in Bobonaro District. The court accepted the admission of guilt and it will convene again on 25 January for sentencing.

In the second hearing, a 30-year old pro-independence activist pleaded not guilty to the

charges of murdering a militia member on 26 September 1999 in Gleno village, Ermera District. The trial was set for 6 February.

The Office of the Prosecutor General filed the first indictment containing charges of Crimes Against Humanity committed in East Timor in the wake of last year's orchestrated campaign of violence. The indictment was presented on 11 December before the Dili District Court's Special Panel for Serious Crimes.

The indictment accuses 11 persons of committing Crimes Against Humanity, including murder, torture, deportation, and forcible transfer of civilian population, between 21 April and 25 September 1999, in Lospalos, Lautem District. The group is accused of committing at least 13 murders, in addition to severe victimization.

The accused, most of whom were members of the pro-autonomy militia group Team Alfa, also known as Jati Merah Puti (Authentic Red and White), were allegedly involved in a number of killings, including the ambush and killing on 25 September of a group of clergy, church workers, a journalist and a youth near the village of Verokoko. They are also charged with the deportation and forcible transfer of the civilian population of Leuro village to the base of TNI Battalion 745, to the port of Com, and some to West Timor.

The indictment also contains the first accusation against an Indonesian Army Officer, Lt. Sayful Anwar, Deputy Commander of its Special Forces Command (KOPASSUS), stationed in Lospalos, for the mutilation, torture and murder of Averisto Lopes on 21 April 1999, at the Team Alfa base. A warrant for his arrest is to be immediately issued by the Dili District Court's Special Panel for Serious Crimes.

Of the 11 accused, nine are detained at prisons in Becora and Gleno in East Timor. Among them is Joni Marques, Team Alfa's de facto Commander. One of the militia members, Mautersa Moniz, is still at large.

Timorese militia leader Eurico Guterress went on trial in Jakarta charged with inciting criminal activities against the state during a weapons handover in West Timor. Wearing army fatigues and a headband in the red and white colours of the Indonesian national flag for his hearing, Mr. Guterress was cheered by supporters

as he walked into court.

The Portuguese Mission in Dili invited 4 East Timorese members of the judiciary to participate in two months of training at the Portuguese Center for Judiciary Studies (CEJ) in Lisbon. The Portuguese Mission supports the travel and the Portuguese Ministry of Justice supports all accommodation and living expenses, as well as tuition fees, books and materials. The jurists will be leaving at the end of January.

### **Civilian Police (CivPol)**

The total number of crimes committed in East Timor from 1 January to 31 December 2000 was 2,636, of which Dili District accounted for slightly more than 50 per cent.

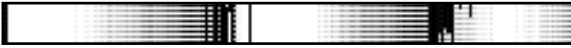
The following is a breakdown of the percentage of crimes committed in each district: Dili, 50.3 per cent (1,327 crimes); Baucau, 7.8 per cent (206 crimes); Liquica, 6.8 per cent (180 crimes); Ermera, 5.6 per cent (147 crimes); Bobonaro, 4.8 per cent (127 crimes); Lautem, 4.4 per cent (116 crimes); Manufahi, 3.9 per cent (103 crimes); Oecussi, 3.9 per cent (102 crimes); Covalima, 3.9 per cent (97 crimes); Viqueque, 2.6 per cent (69 crimes); Ainaro, 2.3 per cent (61 crimes); Aileu, 2.0 per cent (54 crimes); and Manatuto, 1.8 per cent (47 crimes).

The crime rates steadily increased over the year, with a jump from 251 crimes committed in November to 357 in December. CivPol attributes the increase to poverty and unemployment, lack of security consciousness among the local population and UN staff, the increase in the number of returnees, difficulties in accessing CivPol, and a lack of availability of Timor Lorosa'e Police Service (TLPS) and Police Assistance Group (PAG) officers. An increase in the reporting of crime and petty offences to CivPol in the latter part of the year is another reason for the rise in crime rates.

In order to address the increase in crime, CivPol is going to increase the number of police officers patrolling the streets by the end of January, particularly in Dili. Most of the additional patrol officers will come from administrative positions.

### East Timor Police Service

The first class of former police officers (51) graduated from the Police Training College on 11 December. As of mid-January, there were three batches of young recruits in the Police Academy undergoing the three-month training program, as well as 50 former police officers who were undergoing a one-month training program and who will be graduating on 29 January. Some 27 young recruits were selected to participate in the International Criminal Investigation Training Assistance Program (ICITAP). The 11-day training program started 15 January 2001.



### H U M A N   R I G H T S

On 6 December 2000, the Joint Committee for Human Rights Day organized a Human Rights/Reconciliation seminar to commemorate Human Rights Day. Deputy Transitional Administrator Jean-Christian Cady delivered a speech on behalf of UNTAET on the subject of transparency. Bishop Belo and Commander Lere of FALINTIL spoke on the significance of protecting human rights. Human Rights Day was celebrated on 10 December in Dili and Liquiça with concerts, information stalls, music, a painting competition and a free speech forum.

On 5 January, a meeting on the Commission for Truth, Reception and Reconciliation was held in Lautem District. Two human rights officers from the Dili Steering Committee met with 43 participants representing CNRT members from Lautem district and all five sub-districts, as well as representatives from OMT, OJT, and churches. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the formation of a commission that will deal with former militias and returnees.

As of mid-January, some 240 Muslims continue to live at the Dili Mosque. The mosque residents continue to face pressure from neighbours to move out, but because of fears that their security cannot be guaranteed if they return to their homes, they are seeking help from UNTAET to find temporary alternative accommodation. The Muslim families are doing this even though they

own 34 houses in Dili, most of which are still standing, but many of which are illegally occupied.

In the early hours of 1 January, a group of local youths entered the Dili Mosque premises, broke windows, threw stones and threatened the Mosque residents. The crowd dispersed on the arrival of the UN Civilian Police (CivPol) and the Rapid Response Unit. There were several incidents of stone throwing on 1 and 2 January. CivPol has established 24-hour police presence at the Mosque.

The Office of Human Rights Affairs is holding ongoing meetings with representatives of the Serious Crimes Investigations Unit, the Prosecutor's Office and the Office of the Minister for Police and Emergency Services in order to discuss mechanisms for dealing with a possibly large influx of suspected perpetrators of war crimes and crimes against humanity from West Timor. One issue that is being discussed is the establishment of safehouses for individuals alleged to have been involved in minor crimes.

### Gender Affairs

In order to recruit more Timorese women into the Civil Service, the Office of Civil Service and Public Employment (CISPE), UNTAET's Gender Unit and the Civil Service Commission has requested that a rapid, nation-wide survey be carried out of unemployed Timorese women who hold diplomas in higher education. Forms have been delivered to women through East Timorese women's organizations, the NGO Forum and the District Administrations, in order to gather more information about the skills of women in the country. It is expected that the list of possible candidates will be compiled by February. This list represents the first stage in creating a database of qualified women that could be recruited into the Civil Service. Women currently constitute about 20 per cent of all civil servants in East Timor.

During a meeting on 9 January, the newly formed Liquiça District Women's Network raised concerns about the use of traditional dispute resolution mechanisms in dealing with cases of violence against women. Several women at the meeting expressed fears that women's rights would not be respected in such meetings and that it would be

difficult for them to raise the issue of domestic violence. In light of these concerns, they requested CivPol and the Timor Lorosa'e Police Service (TLPS) to provide them with better support in dealing with cases of violence against women.



## PEACE AND SECURITY

One person died after clashes between two rival gangs on 3 January in Dili. Domingos da Silva was taken to Dili Hospital after he sustained severe injuries from fist and machete blows. He died later that afternoon. Three others were seriously injured and are receiving treatment at the hospital.

The fighting started in Dili's Becora area between different groups of gang members on the night of 2 January and escalated the next morning. UNTAET's Civilian Police (CivPol) arrested 16 people in connection with the violence, including four who were arrested in the nearby hills after being pursued by police officers on foot and in helicopter.

The situation in Becora was calm again in the late afternoon, but CivPol stepped up its presence in the area.

This is the first public disturbance on a large scale since last April, when five people were injured in gang-related violence.

UNTAET's Civilian Police arrested two foreigners following a brawl on New Year's Eve outside a restaurant in Dili.

About an hour into the New Year, a fight between a Singaporean businessman and an East Timorese escalated into a brawl in which at least five people were injured.

At the peak of the disturbance, 50 East Timorese gathered outside the restaurant - filled with people celebrating the New Year - and threw stones at cars and the front of the restaurant. Five United Nations vehicles were damaged. The situation was brought under control after about an hour. A Singaporean and an Australian businessman were arrested, suspected of instigating the brawl, and have since been released.

A Peacekeeper from the Philippines died of a

suspected heart attack on 22 December. The 32-year-old corporal was a radio operator stationed in Manatuto district.

To date, 13 Peacekeepers and one Military Observer have died since UNTAET's mandate started.

Meanwhile, an Australian Peacekeeper was injured following a suspected militia attack on 11 December. Private Christopher Carter received minor shrapnel wounds to the lower leg and buttock as a result of an explosion. The explosion occurred at Aidabaleten, about 60 kilometers west of Dili and is believed to have been from a grenade thrown at the UN position. First aid was provided at the scene and a helicopter immediately brought the soldier to the UN Military Hospital in Dili. His situation is described as satisfactory.

### Civil Military Affairs

The National Polio Immunization Program conducted its second phase on 2 and 9 December 2000, with an estimated 80 per cent of the children immunized. For the month of December, UN Peacekeeping Force (UN-PKF) medical units provided medical treatment to a total of 6,378 persons, bringing to 61,849 the number of Timorese treated by UN-PKF.

Two "Sea Knight" helicopters from the US Naval supply ship Niagara Falls delivered a total of 23 tonnes of supplies from Maliana to villages in the Bobanaro and Covalima Districts. During their two-day visit to East Timor, sailors from the ship renovated the SD-1 school in Dili, sealing the floor, painting the walls and providing lighting for the main hall. A platoon of 30 US Marines serving with the US Support Group-East Timor (USGET) departed East Timor on the Niagara Falls after three months of construction tasks in Dili, Manatuto and Liquiça.

Civilian Military Assistance (CMA) hosted several meetings with Sector East and East Timor Transitional Administration's (ETTA) Agricultural Division, in order to facilitate the introduction of the Self-Sustainable Agricultural Project in East Timor. Study and preparation is on-going and plans are being made for its implementation for all of East Timor. A training and demonstration site was set up from 8 to 20 January 2001 at the Suco of Los Cabulu in West

Dili.

All UN-PKF Units continued with engineering and logistical support for non-governmental organizations (NGO) and UN agencies. Other UN-PKF Units in Dili, including Force Logistics Supply (FLS), Close Air Support Group (CASG) and UN Military Hospital undertook various small, yet significant projects in assisting local homes and orphanages. Work included repairs, humanitarian assistance donations and English classes at homes and orphanages. From 19 to 22 December 2000, the Republic of Korea Battalion's (ROKBATT) dental clinic visited Aileu to provide dental treatment to FALINTIL members. As part of this effort, the team also provided a barber service and film shows to locals in Aileu.



## TRUST FUND UPDATE

The Donor's Meeting on East Timor was held in Brussels from 5 to 6 December 2000. The European Commission hosted the meeting which was co-chaired by the World Bank and UNTAET. At the meeting, East Timorese leaders, international donors and multi- and bilateral development institutions considered and endorsed a plan for the transition of power into Timorese hands in 2001, leading to independence.

The meeting focused on critical development issues that would support the political transition process in the coming year. These issues included a strategy and timetable for the administrative transition and key benchmarks for sectoral reconstruction and development. The meeting was an important landmark in the transition process for East Timor, and the international donor community demonstrated their continued support for, and engagement with, East Timor.

East Timor Transitional Administration's (ETTA) coordination frameworks with donors have been strengthened in recent months. One major step has been the Cabinet's decision in November 2000 to establish and maintain a list of priority activities for the Transitional Administration that have not been funded and for which donor assistance is being sought. This list

of priorities is the only set of activities for which ETTA will seek donor support. The Cabinet decided that the National Planning and Development Agency (NPDA) would be responsible for maintaining the list.

As an important first step in policy planning for East Timor's poorest, ETTA, the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) have all agreed to undertake, in partnership, a major poverty assessment in East Timor. The assessment will be made in order to gather and analyze reliable data on poverty levels in East Timor to help inform decision-making, planning and policy development as the country moves towards independence. The major activities under this poverty assessment are a survey of all 500 sucos in the country, a household survey of some 1,500 to 2,000 poor households and a participatory poverty assessment to be undertaken in around 25 communities.

Another major development in terms of donor financing, has been the signing of the Micro-finance Development Project, under the Trust Fund for East Timor (TFET). This project will facilitate community-based opportunities for income generation and the creation of sustainable farming and non-farming employment. This project, managed by the Commerce, Industry and Tourism Division of ETTA, aims to help develop the knowledge and skills of the poor to implement income-generating activities. It will also establish a sustainable micro-finance bank to provide financial services to enable the poor to undertake micro-enterprise activities. US\$7.72 million has been earmarked for this project under the TFET, with US\$4.0 million in the first grant agreement. The first grant agreement for this project was signed on 2 December 2000, and should start in January 2001.



## A C R O N Y M S

ADB	Asian Development Bank
AMI	Medical International Assistance
AusAID	Australian Agency for International Development
CARE	CARE International
CIVPOL	UN Civilian Police
CNRT	National Council of Timorese Resistance
DFID	Department for International Development
ECHO	European Community Humanitarian Organisation
ETTA	East Timor Transitional Administration
FALINTIL	Armed Forces for the National Liberation of East Timor
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
GOAL	GOAL Ireland
HAER	UNTAET Humanitarian Pillar
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
ILO	International Labour Organization
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
IOM	International Organisation for Migration
NPDA	National Planning and Development Agency
OCHA	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance

OXFAM	Oxfam International
PKF	UN Peacekeeping Force
QIP	Quick Impact Project
SRSG	Special Representative of the Secretary-General
TFET	Trust Fund for East Timor
TLJA	Timor Lorosa'e Journalist Association
TLPS	Timor Lorosae Police Service
TNI	Tentara Nasional Indonesia (Indonesian National Armed Forces)
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNMO	UN Military Observer
UNTAET	United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WFP	World Food Program
WHO	World Health Organization

