

Our Vision: to save lives
and improve the quality of
life of vulnerable people



Cruz Vermelha de Timor-Leste
strategic plan 2010>2014

2010-2014



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Preface >

Since August 2002, Cruz Vermelha de Timor-Leste (CVTL) has been working to improve the young nation's humanitarian situation. Whilst retaining its independence, CVTL is legally recognised as the nation's chief humanitarian auxiliary to the government.

Addressing the lessons learnt over the first four year Strategic Plan (2006-2009), CVTL's new Strategic Plan (2010-2014) provides direction for the next five years of operation, in accordance with the needs of Timor-Leste's most vulnerable communities. This roadmap for human development is based upon an internal and external review of CVTL's progress with implementing the first Strategic Plan, consultation with CVTL staff, volunteers, board members and benefactors and, most importantly, our clients, the nation's most vulnerable individuals and communities.

While the period from 2005 to the present has been one of great progress, there are still many issues that need to be addressed.

Indeed, CVTL's main objective for the target period is the continued pursuit of the same goals which have defined it so far.

As a new nation, Timor-Leste faces a myriad of obstacles on its road to development. In addition to dealing with environmental threats such as landslides, flooding and earthquakes, CVTL operates in a socio-political climate that is still recovering from the violent struggle for independence which peaked in 1999, as well as the acute civil unrest of 2006 and 2008. Access to clean water and a stable food supply continue to threaten the future health of many East

Timorese people and, as a result, Timor's under-5 mortality rate, at 9.7%, is one of the highest in the world.

Since its foundation CVTL has striven to alleviate the suffering of this harsh environment, operating primarily in the areas of disaster risk reduction (community preparedness, emergency response and livelihoods), health (water and sanitation, HIV/AIDS, community-based health and first aid, first aid training and emergency health), tracing and restoring family links, dissemination of the Red Cross values and principles and international humanitarian law. We are presently witnessing the growth of a budding youth programme, aiming to equip young leaders of tomorrow with skills and passion for humanitarian work. The next five years will also bring a stronger focus on organisational effectiveness, in order to develop and maintain programmes, structures and systems that best support our work.

In 2002, the society began with 50 staff. It now employs 115 full-time staff as well as many international and local volunteers and still manages to maintain strong grass-roots ethics. This growth is testimony to the impact of our work and the acceptance of CVTL as Timor-Leste's primary humanitarian aid organisation.

In order to continue this work, a new phase of capacity-building is needed, as well as the continued support of our international and domestic partners and our dedicated staff and volunteers.

Ms Isabel Amaral Guterres
Secretary General
Cruz Vermelha de Timor-Leste
December 2009

Timor-Leste Context >

Timor-Leste occupies the eastern half of the island of Timor and includes the enclave of Oecussi in the west. Its total area is approximately 14,874 kilometres. It has a current population of approximately one million, of which around 150,000 live in the capital Dili. The country regained its independence in 2002 and is currently in its second legislature of self-government.

The official languages are Tetum and Portuguese and ethno-linguistic diversity is high with up to 16 distinct groups. The majority of the population is Catholic (90%), although residuals of indigenous beliefs are inherent in the population. The remaining 10% are mostly Buddhist, Muslim or Protestant.

Development Issues

Timor-Leste is the poorest country of the Australasian region and ranks 158th out of 179 on the UNDP development index of 2008. The income for many Timorese is less than 1 US dollar a day. With one of the highest average fertility rates in the world (7.6 per female), it has a very fast growing population. This is a contributing factor to 60% of the nation's population being under 20 years of age and high unemployment rates - 23% of the labour force in Dili and up to 40% in rural areas.

Timor-Leste is situated in the Pacific "ring of fire", which makes the country prone to earthquakes. The country lies in an archipelago that has relatively low and unpredictable monsoonal rains which result in regular droughts during the short growing season and relatively high levels of food insecurity. The effects of climate change will intensify this. The country is also prone to other high risk hazards (flooding,

wind storms, landslides) which, coupled with poor socio-economic and health factors and continued widespread practice of slash-and-burn agriculture, contribute to environmental degradation and make much of the population highly vulnerable. Following a number of outbreaks of violence since independence, the country is still considered to be conflict prone.

One of Timor-Leste's main health development issues is the high child and maternal mortality rates. Contributing factors are high prevalence of malnutrition, diarrhoea and respiratory diseases and communicable diseases such as malaria and dengue. A major factor is low access to clean water (around 50% of population) and very low access to latrines. General knowledge of hygiene in the rural areas is low. Fear, superstition, distance to and avoidance of health facilities and use of traditional healers, prevent timely use of medical treatment. The quality of health facilities, particularly in rural areas is still relatively low. Prevalence of HIV/AIDS is low but lack of awareness and risky sexual behaviour are significant risk factors.



Timor-Leste Context >

Despite the complexity and magnitude of development issues, including the challenge of limited capacity, Timor-Leste has made significant progress in human development terms since 1999. Policies and implementation plans for specific sectors (such as health and education) have been formulated. The government's National Priorities 2009 have been grouped into seven areas: agriculture and food security, rural development, human resources development, social protection and social services (including health), security and public safety, transparent and effective government and access to justice. The World Bank monitoring working group reported that major achievements have been reached, with noticeable examples being improved access to justice, better trained police, resettlement of the majority of IDPs, establishment of income support payments for the elderly and disabled, increased employment in infrastructure and improved food security.

Future Development Issues

As peace and stability return to the country, priorities have shifted from humanitarian assistance to more systematic development support. For more than 100,000 people displaced as a result of the violence in 2006, it has been possible to return to their original communities where a reintegration process is ongoing.

Over the coming five years it is likely that Timor-Leste will continue to grow rapidly with associated problems of urban drift, a young population with high unemployment and pervasive poverty. It is interesting to note Government moving towards decentralisation through the establishment of municipalities, as a specific means to enhance the economy.

Risk reduction, better preparedness and a culture of safety to improve resilience is important as weather conditions change over time as a result of global warming.

Timor-Leste's significant reserves of oil and gas constitute a large source of revenue for the country. However, it is an exhaustible resource and will need careful management to realise sustainable economic growth. Government is taking cautious measures to avoid total dependence on these resources.



Risk reduction, better preparedness and a culture of safety to improve resilience is important as weather conditions change over time as a result of global warming.

Developing the new Strategic Plan >

CVTL started to prepare for this, its second Strategic Plan in 2008. A two-stage process reviewed progress against the first Strategic Plan (Phase 1), which informed further analysis and drafting of a new Strategic Plan (Phase II). Participation of CVTL staff, boards and volunteers and the full range of CVTL's stakeholders was 'an important factor in' capturing the experience gained in the branches. CVTL's partners were also invited to provide input at relevant points.

Phase I: Internal & External Working Environment Review

An external consultant was recruited to facilitate the Review. Over two separate workshops, national programme managers, branch coordinators and board representatives participated in an analysis of Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) and self-assessments against Characteristics of a Well-Functioning National Society (CWFNS) and Characteristics of a Well-Prepared National Society (CWPNS). The consultant also carried out interviews with CVTL staff, International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement' partners and other stakeholders. Summary sections of the comprehensive report and its recommendations were translated and shared with staff and board members, in advance of Phase II.

Two other independent evaluations provided additional information for this Phase I 'stocktaking': an External Evaluation of CVTL Health Programme, and an evaluation of some of CVTL WatSan activities as part of a broader regional evaluation carried out for Australian Red Cross.

Summary of Internal & External Review findings:

The Review findings recognised CVTL's progress in building a new National Society in a short period of time, virtually doubling its size in the past two years. It noted the commitment of CVTL's boards, staff, volunteers and the support of partners in making this possible.

The findings emphasised the important role CVTL has established in Timor-Leste as auxiliary to government and the significant progress it has made in its core programme areas. CVTL's stakeholders and partners, both from within the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement' and others, offer significant opportunities and potential to expand and develop a strong foundation of cooperation and support. CVTL programme priorities were found to be consistent with vulnerability trends. Vulnerabilities related to Timor-Leste's growing youth population were highlighted, and recognised as an area that is likely to see significant development over the period covered by the Plan. The report noted the particular importance of CVTL's work in a post-conflict environment as it contributes to "creating conditions of confidence, trust and mutual self [sic] respect..."

However, the analysis also identified clear signs that CVTL is over-stretched and that it is crucial to take time to consolidate programmes and prioritise institutional and organisational strengthening. The Review advised CVTL to limit expansion of activities in order to strengthen its core management functions, systems and staff capacities, and its programme quality, so that it can move forward in a more systematic way. In particular, it found that branch development was vital to CVTL's future progress and should be prioritised. Building staff and volunteer capacities was found to be critical in all programme areas, and strengthening CVTL's ability to recruit and retain appropriately skilled staff and volunteers is key to effective ongoing service delivery.

Developing the new Strategic Plan >

Also highlighted was the importance of greater board involvement in order for CVTL to successfully pursue its objectives. Greater emphasis on dissemination of the Fundamental Principles and ideals of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and CVTL's role as the national society in Timor-Leste was found to be needed at all levels, including government, the international community and stakeholders.



Programme-related findings included the importance of building on achievements made with the community-based approach and strengthening integrated programming that has been successfully initiated, resulting in sharing resources and maximising impact.

Identification of new partnerships with internal and external stakeholders was recommended, combined with development of a strong resource mobilisation policy and plan. This needs to target both traditional and new local donors and aim at securing appropriate, longer term funding which will give CVTL greater financial security over the coming period.

Phase II: Analysis and Drafting of the Strategic Plan

Phase II consisted of a national workshop in May involving 70 participants including branch staff, national managers and board representatives. Programme presentations and subsequent discussions identified critical issues in each area.

An Australian Red Cross strategic planning specialist was brought in to facilitate the second national workshop on 1-2 July. 35 participants representing all key stakeholder groups, including International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), reviewed the analyses done so far and worked through an intensive process of identifying goals and developing strategic directions. The current Vision and Mission statements were retained.

A draft Plan collating the work done was subsequently circulated for feedback and comment at various fora including the Branch Assemblies in November. CVTL partners were also invited to comment on the draft Plan during this stage. Final revisions to the plan were made to the document before being presented to the General Assembly for approval in December 2009.

Goals & Strategic Directions >

Goal 1: Improve the health, safety and well-being of the most vulnerable people and communities

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

1. Effect behaviour change that improves the health of vulnerable individuals, communities and populations, through community-based health and first aid services

- 1.1 Recruit and train community volunteers in basic health care, disease prevention, hygiene promotion, basic first aid and emergency response
- 1.2 Assist communities to address priority health issues and injury management using trained community volunteers, participatory community assessments and action plans and modular “learning-by-doing” education in communities
 - focus on improving health in women and children under 5 years
 - emphasis on malaria, diarrhoea and respiratory infections
 - implementing a Community-based Health and First Aid (CBHFA) pilot project in Manatuto

2. Promote safer, healthier communities

- 2.1 Promote road safety and injury prevention to target populations through information dissemination and role modelling
- 2.2 In cooperation with Government, World Health Organisation (WHO) and other agencies, assist with public health campaigns through mobilisation of branch volunteers
- 2.3 Raise awareness and promote good practice through school health programmes
- 2.4 Raise awareness and promote good practice through environment programmes



Goals & Strategic Directions >

3. Assist communities most in need to access and utilise safe water supply and sanitation

3.1 Support development of community-managed water and sanitation facilities, with appropriate and affordable technology, and promotion of hygiene:

- targeting vulnerable communities and individuals with low water and sanitation coverage
- ensuring community participation, instigation of management/ cost-sharing scheme for future maintenance of water supply and hygiene/ sanitation promotion
- in accordance with a) Government National Water and Sanitation guidelines and b) International Federation Water and Sanitation Policy

4. Reduce vulnerability to and stigma around HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted infections (STIs)

- 4.1 Promote safe sex awareness and practices amongst high risk populations e.g. clients of sex workers
- 4.2 Implement supervised peer education programme for young people - to raise awareness, provide information on health services and on risky behaviours
- 4.3 Raise awareness of HIV/AIDS and STIs amongst the general public to promote understanding and tolerance
- 4.4 Develop a CVTL workplace education policy and ensure all our staff and volunteers receive orientation and refresher training

5. Increase resilience of disaster-prone communities by assisting them with risk reduction activities

- 5.1 Assist disaster-prone communities to identify and implement small-scale risk mitigation (structural and non-structural) measures that meet their needs, using participatory community assessment, planning and design processes
- 5.2 Assist disaster-prone communities to develop early warning systems and prepare contingency plans including evacuation site preparation
- 5.3 In conjunction with Government agencies, organise and develop the capacity of community volunteer groups to prepare their own communities and respond in emergencies
- 5.4 Promote awareness on environment protection and the use of environmentally-friendly options such as smokeless stoves, waste water management and alternatives to burning of cultivated land



Goals & Strategic Directions >

Goal 2: Save lives, develop preparedness and strengthen recovery from emergencies

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

6. Contribute actively in disaster management planning and emergency response in Timor-Leste

- 6.1 Contribute to disaster prediction and national emergency management planning
- 6.2 Develop and maintain rapid response capability (staff, volunteers, logistics, communications, procedures) in national headquarters and all 13 districts, specialising in:
 - assessment and provision of non-food relief items
 - water supply and hygiene promotion in emergencies
- 6.3 Position and maintain appropriate levels of contingency stock for immediate use following emergencies in all 13 districts and well-functioning central system of management - control and replenishment
- 6.4 In cooperation with Government and other stakeholders, provide rapid response following emergencies in:
 - assessment and provision of non-food relief items
 - emergency water supply and hygiene promotion
- 6.5 Develop effective early warning system
 - radio communication network
 - people trained to collect and disseminate information
 - operating procedures, equipment and training

7. Assist at-risk and disaster-affected communities to restore livelihoods and reduce vulnerability following emergencies

- 7.1 Assist affected communities to implement small-scale, community-based livelihoods programmes, through participatory planning and implementation processes that consider/offer a choice of options



Goals & Strategic Directions >

8. Increase the number of people able to provide basic first aid following emergencies

8.1 Provide a variety of standardised first aid training to government departments, non-government organisations, the private sector and the general public

- position CVTL as preferred first aid trainer in Timor-Leste

8.2 Develop our First Aid services providing first aid at events and following emergencies, using well-prepared and equipped volunteers

9. Prepare communities and ourselves to manage pandemic health emergencies

9.1 Assist at-risk populations and communities to prepare for and reduce effects of avian influenza epidemic through information dissemination and other activities

9.2 Develop CVTL contingency plan for health emergencies

10. Reconnect people separated from their families as a result of conflict, natural disasters and emergencies

10.1 Strengthen tracing and messaging services provided to people separated as a result of past events in Timor-Leste

10.2 Strengthen our tracing and messaging programme to enable us to operate with regional support from ICRC

10.3 Develop stronger linkages between disaster management programme and tracing and messaging programme to improve assistance following natural disasters

10.4 Promote CVTL tracing services to all communities of Timor-Leste



Goals & Strategic Directions >

Goal 3: Strengthen community harmony, tolerance and peace

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

11. Promote international humanitarian law and the fundamental principles and ideals of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement in all that we do

11.1 Ensure that all staff, members and volunteers have a sound understanding of international humanitarian law and the fundamental principles and ideals of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and

- Actively promote the principles and ideals through CVTL programme activities. Ensure all staff know how the principles and ideals are realised in their programmes
- Encourage and support CVTL staff and volunteers to share and promote the principles with partner organisations, armed forces personnel, local authorities (government), teachers and school and university students

11.2 Promote the fundamental principles and ideals of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and the role of CVTL through the media, including CVTL newsletters and website, Red Cross Red Crescent campaigns and special events

11.3 Ensure that the emblem of CVTL is used to indicate membership of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement or to confer protection and ensure that it is not misused

- Ensure that the laws and regulations for the proper use of CVTL's emblem are understood by all staff, members and volunteers

- Promote and strengthen respect for the protective sign of the Red Cross in the community

12. Advocate on behalf of the most vulnerable members of society for government agencies, NGOs and others to recognise and respond to their needs and aspirations

13. Encourage and enable young people to actively engage in and contribute to their communities in Timor-Leste

13.1 Engage young people in peer education programmes that build their confidence and enable them to be agents of behaviour change in their communities

13.2 Mobilise young volunteers to promote Red Cross principles and actively participate in the delivery of CVTL programmes

13.3 Provide inter-community exchange opportunities for the development of young Red Cross volunteers





Goal 4: Build a strong and sustainable organisation that supports our people and our programmes

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

14. Strengthen leadership, value and support learning at all levels

- 14.1 Provide opportunities for relevant training, skills development and learning for boards, staff and volunteers to help them to carry out their jobs more effectively
- 14.2 Recognise volunteers as the heart of our work through the establishment of effective recruitment, management and retention policy and practice
- 14.3 Develop strong leadership and decision-making to guide and direct the organisation
 - Develop, nurture and encourage effective leadership at all levels
 - Improve strategic leadership through skilled, committed and representative governance

15. Strengthen our programmes, systems and infrastructure

- 15.1 Improve programme quality with strengthened management systems and processes
 - Strengthen programme planning and management at national headquarters and branch level
 - Improve consistency through agreed standard operating procedures and quality standards
 - Ensure programming and reporting focuses on results
 - Strengthen planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation to reinforce service quality and support integration of programmes

- Develop agreed policies and procedures that support efficient, responsive management systems for finance, logistics, administration, HR and communications

15.2 Ensure branches and national headquarters has and maintains appropriate infrastructure for their needs

- Invest in essential infrastructure and equipment and ensure they are appropriately maintained, including warehousing, transport and communications
- Develop a well-functioning branch structure with capacity to respond and meet the needs of the people they serve
- Provide adequately appointed office premises for all branches and the national headquarters
- Renovation and refurbishment of the Portuguese building in Dili

16. Ensure sustainable resource-mobilization to further our work

- Develop stronger, sustainable partnerships and networks with government, international and local NGOs, private sector and local communities to support and inform our work at all levels
- Develop a resource mobilisation strategy to secure long term funding, including local fund-raising
- Build commercial first aid training programme that raises funds for CVTL

17. Develop a communications strategy that promotes our work both domestically and internationally to the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and others

Cross-cutting issues >

1. Gender

The impact of gender differences on health outcomes for women is well known. Women and girls continue to be significantly disadvantaged in Timor-Leste. Illiteracy is higher in women than in men, fewer women gain formal employment and fewer girls obtain a tertiary education. Traditional community leadership is dominated by males and this results in low participation in decision-making on resource allocation and infrastructure improvement. Maternal health remains one of the key health issues for women. Fertility rates at over 7 are among the highest in the world and maternal mortality is up to 800 per 100,000 live births. These indicators show women and girls to be particularly vulnerable compared to men.

CVTL recognises the importance of gender issues in all aspects of its work. Greater emphasis needs to be put on ensuring gender is considered in programming – in design, planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, participation in decision-making, allocation of resources and benefits and access to services. This is relevant to all sectors but particularly significant for health programmes as women are the primary providers of health and hygiene education in the family.

CVTL will continue to implement projects to assist special groups of men and women and utilise women-only forums for consultations. Additionally, all programmes will ensure that the monitoring framework will specify disaggregation of data by gender in order to monitor progress against this objective.

CVTL also seeks to be a role model in equal employment opportunity, recruiting equal numbers of male and female members, volunteers and staff and to be a gender sensitive organisation. Gender-based selection of key decision-making positions within CVTL will ensure equal opportunities for women in its management structure.

2. Climate change

Currently there is little information on the likely impacts of climate change on Timor-Leste although there is speculation that the climate will become hotter and drier in the dry season and increasingly variable. Wet season flooding is already a significant problem and changes could have adverse consequences for agriculture production and food security. Impacts on health through increased pressure on availability of food, likelihood of increased prevalence of malaria, dengue and other water-related diseases will be most severe on the poorer, more vulnerable communities.

Accepting climate change and its consequences as a reality, CVTL will take the likely effects of climate change into account in all of its programmes. Programme planning will consider adaptation to climate change through scaling-up or taking additional measures to manage the risks.



Approaches >

1. Community-based approach

CVTL will continue to apply community-based approach in the majority of its health and disaster management programmes. Within the last decade, positive results in different countries and settings confirm the validity of this approach in health promotion, preventative health care and in managing and reducing disaster risk. However, it is also recognised that this approach, whilst more likely to lead to sustainable behaviour change and positive impact, can be complex and challenging, due to a range of socio-economic and other factors and requires time and effort to initiate, sustain and replicate.

CVTL's community-based approach is one which starts by establishing a common understanding of what can be achieved and how. Staff and volunteers then facilitate a community assessment which helps the community to identify and prioritise their needs and analyse their vulnerability and capacity to respond to health and disease problems, environmental health issues and natural disasters such as flooding, landslides, and drought. Together they formulate a community action plan, and identify the necessary resources to implement it, starting with their own. Plans are made with active participation of people in the community. Emphasis is placed on including vulnerable groups such as mothers and caregivers with children under 5, women, older people and people with disabilities.

CVTL's workforce is a network of skilled technical staff and trained volunteers operating at national level and through branch offices in every district. This gives them a unique connection with communities enabling them to identify and reach those most in need.

Success factors include identifying and involving leaders at all levels starting with the community, individual and community ownership through participation, setting up community structures such as committees and volunteer groups and through partnerships with relevant stakeholders such as government, non-government organisations, donors, etc.

Through appropriate support to this coordination process, CVTL helps communities to develop a culture of self-improvement and access complementary support. Integrated with relevant training and capacity-building activities, communities can reduce their vulnerability and become self reliant and empowered.

CVTL recognises the challenges of this approach but is committed to it as an effective and relevant way of working with vulnerable communities that best promotes sustainability. CVTL will continue to develop and improve its skills and techniques and create ways in which learning is shared across the organisation. In this way, it believes that it can develop a best practice model that is a foundation to many of its programmes.

2. Integrated approach

CVTL seeks to maximise its impact on communities through integrated programming as far as possible. Vulnerable communities commonly have a number of priority needs and, particularly where these are inter-related, CVTL can add significant value by providing support with complementary activities. This might involve disaster risk reduction, livelihood options, emergency response, water and sanitation, hygiene promotion, preventable disease or HIV/AIDS programmes.

CVTL recognises that a fully integrated approach is unrealistic due to resource limitations. However, it will increasingly look for opportunities to work in this way. To further this aim, CVTL will develop a close alignment of its community-based approach and associated tools, in particular the vulnerability and capacity assessment (VCA) and monitoring and evaluation tools.

CVTL also recognises the value of applying an integrated approach with others and looks for opportunities to coordinate with the government and non-government agencies, at both local and national levels, to strengthen and enhance support to vulnerable communities.

Summary >

Cruz Vermelha de Timor-Leste - Vision & Mission

Our Vision is to save lives and improve the quality of life of vulnerable people.

Our Mission is to abide by humanitarian values and the spirit of volunteerism to alleviate the suffering of the socially-excluded and economically-marginalised, by promoting their health and socio-economic development and enhancing their capacity to prepare for and respond to disasters.

GOAL 1

IMPROVE THE HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELL-BEING OF THE MOST VULNERABLE PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES

GOAL 2

SAVE LIVES, DEVELOP PREPAREDNESS AND STRENGTHEN RECOVERY FROM EMERGENCIES

GOAL 3

STRENGTHEN COMMUNITY HARMONY, TOLERANCE AND PEACE

GOAL 4

BUILD A STRONG AND SUSTAINABLE ORGANISATION THAT SUPPORTS OUR PEOPLE AND OUR PROGRAMMES

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

1. Effect behaviour change that improves the health of vulnerable communities and populations through community-based health and first aid services
2. Promote safer, healthier communities
3. Assist communities most in need to access and utilise safe water supply and sanitation
4. Reduce vulnerability to and stigma around HIV/AIDS and STIs
5. Increase resilience of disaster-prone communities by assisting them with risk reduction activities

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

6. Contribute actively in disaster management planning and emergency response in Timor-Leste
7. Assist at-risk and disaster-affected communities to restore livelihoods and reduce vulnerability following emergencies
8. Increase the number of people able to provide basic first aid
9. Prepare communities and ourselves to manage pandemic health emergencies
10. Reconnect people separated from their families as a result of conflict, natural disasters and emergencies

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

11. Promote international humanitarian law and the Fundamental Principles and ideals of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement in all that we do
12. Advocate on behalf of the most vulnerable members of society for government agencies, NGOs and others to recognise and respond to their needs and aspirations
13. Encourage and enable young people to be useful, caring and healthy members of their communities in Timor-Leste

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

14. Strengthen leadership, value and support learning at all levels
15. Strengthen our programmes, systems and infrastructure
16. Ensure sustainable resource mobilisation to further our work
17. Develop a communication strategy that promotes our work both domestically and internationally to the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and others

The Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement >

Cruz Vermelha de Timor-Leste is guided in its work by the Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and by international humanitarian law.

Humanity

The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, born of a desire to bring assistance without discrimination to the wounded on the battlefield, endeavours in its international and national capacity, to prevent and alleviate human suffering wherever it may be found. Its purpose is to protect life and health and to ensure respect for human life. It promotes mutual understanding, friendship, cooperation and lasting peace amongst all peoples.

Impartiality

It makes no discrimination based on nationality, race, religious belief, class or political opinions. It endeavours to relieve the suffering of individuals, being guided solely by their needs, giving priority to the most urgent cases of distress.

Neutrality

In order to continue to enjoy the confidence of all, the Movement may not take sides in hostilities or engage at any time in controversies of a political, racial, religious or ideological nature.

Independence

The Movement is independent. National Societies, while auxiliaries in the humanitarian services of their governments and subject to the laws of their respective countries, must always maintain their autonomy so that they may be able at all times, to act in accordance with the principles of the Movement

Voluntary Service

It is a voluntary relief movement not prompted in any manner by desire for gain.

Unity

There can be only one Red Cross or one Red Crescent Society in any one country. It must be open to all. It must carry on its humanitarian work throughout its territory.

Universality

The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, in which all Societies have equal status and share equal responsibilities and rights in helping each other, is worldwide.



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