

Cruz Vermelha de Timor-Leste

Working towards School Safety

The Red Cross Society of Timor Leste or Cruz Vermelha de Timor Leste (known as CVTL) was formally recognized in 2005 with the vision to save lives and improve the quality of life of the most vulnerable people in the country. The CVTL delivers services through its branches in all 13 districts of the country and with the day-to-day involvement of around 3,000 volunteers (including youth). Recently, the CVTL has established youth clubs in selected schools with approximately 966 active youth members active as of 2016.



As part of its Strategic Plan for 2015-2019, the CVTL implements a wide range of activities in schools related to youth empowerment, health promotion and disaster risk reduction. Key areas of focus include delivering first aid training, awareness sessions on leading a healthy lifestyle, conducting activities in schools such as competitions, simulation

exercises and refurbishing water and sanitation facilities. CVTL also conducts training for teachers and has been building specific facilities for children with disabilities in selected schools. All these activities contribute to the three pillars of the Comprehensive School Safety Framework.

The CVTL works in collaboration with several government ministries to implement school safety initiatives, including the National Disaster Management Office and the Ministry of Education. In June 2017, CVTL signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of Education which is valid for five years. CVTL and the Ministry of Health are also collaboratively working to promote the healthy lifestyle in schools and hold quarterly meetings with all relevant stakeholders.



Outreach



School

40

Number of schools reached



Children

Children 11,980 in total
(5,967 boys and 6,013 girls)



Red Cross Youth

10

clubs were established (in 4 secondary schools, in 5 high schools and in 1 University)



Evacuation exercises

CVTL trains students on evacuation plans



First Aid trainings

CVTL provides first aid training for students



Handwashing facilities

Facilities installed in school to support students' access to the water system.



Facilities for children with disabilities

CVTL supports students with disabilities through construction of latrines ramps plan.



Tree planting at community

Secondary school students planting trees in the community.



Training for teachers

Training for school teachers and meeting about the structure and sustainability of the School Youth Club Programme.

"I learnt many things at CVTL that makes me feel more confident, such as being a youth leader and learning how to do first aid. I know how to prevent bleeding, and take an immediate action if there is need for first aid at home or in community. Before joining the Red Cross, I would go to hospital even having small injuries.

I think that I can help my country and the youth in Timor-Leste. We can create good conditions for youth in order for them to learn and practice as well as increase their ability and skills. I know the changes in me is because of other youth. They helped me to become a better person."

Jonas da Silva, CVTL Youth Leader, Bidau Masaur, Dili



Challenges

- 🔍 Limited commitment and motivation of students to engage in school safety action on a regular basis.
- 🔍 Teachers' engagement is limited to the school safety initiative due to their workload.
- 🔍 Limited facilities to support the school safety activities.
- 🔍 Limited funding support from the Ministry of Education



Ways forward

- ➡ Strengthen the coordination between CVTL and schools.
- ➡ Engage and empower youth into school safety programme through Youth in School Safety toolkit
- ➡ Increase engagement and participation of teachers and parents.
- ➡ Increase awareness raising campaigns with a focus on the teachers.

Contact Details



Janúario Ximenes

Secretary General
Rua 20 de maio, No 79, Gricenfor, Nain Feto Dili
Timor-Leste
Email: vidianaxareal_cvtl@redcross.tl
www.redcross.tl

Marwan Jilani

Head of Country Cluster Support Team
IFRC Bangkok
marwan.jilani@ifrc.org
www.ifrc.org