



14 March, Dili – The International Organization for Migration (IOM), with generous funding from the Government of Japan, held a handover ceremony of non-food item (NFI) kits and a mobile container that serves as a warehouse for the Government of Timor-Leste (GoTL) on Tuesday to enable the government to better respond to future emergencies.

This handover is part of IOM's project, *Reducing Disaster Risk and Enhancing Emergency Preparedness in the COVID-19 context for Timor-Leste*, aimed at reducing disaster risk and improving preparedness for future disasters.

IOM handed over 900 NFI kits and one mobile warehouse, which will benefit 4,500 individuals (900 families) for their critical needs to improve the living conditions of vulnerable populations during displacements. The kit included hygiene items, kitchen utensils, beddings and Covid-19 prevention items. Specific items for women and girls are also provided to mitigate GBV risks during emergencies. All items are aligned to the Sphere standards and Decree Law on Civil Protection. Prepositioned items, mobile warehouse, and capacity-building activities on NFI distributions will increase the emergency preparedness of Timor-Leste for future crisis.

“Providing the Government with NFI kits and a warehouse is crucial for the country to better respond to and prepare for future disasters. More importantly, it also contributes to reducing the risks of Covid-19 and gender-based violence (GBV) in evacuation centers,” said Ihma Shareef, IOM Chief of Mission in Timor-Leste.

Since February 2022, the project has trained 218 government representatives and community members in being able to provide assistance in emergencies to vulnerable populations. Six evacuation centers have been assessed and are being renovated in Dili, Manatuto, and Viqueque. The evacuation centers will improve the access of over 32,000 individuals to safe and dignified shelters in the respective sucos, during emergencies.

In his statement, H.E. Tetsuya Kimura, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste said that “Japan is also disaster-prone nation, having experienced many disasters in the past. I believe that Japan can share the knowledge and expertise in which we gained in the past. Japan is cooperating with TL government through various projects for every cycle of Disaster Risk Reduction (DDR). We find it important to address the DDR related issues comprehensively.”

“I would like to express our gratitude to IOM and the Government of Japan for providing us the NFI kits and a mobile warehouse which will allow us to help vulnerable and impacted communities in future disasters for their immediate needs. We now have improved capacities to respond to emergencies,” affirmed Supt. Ismael da Costa Babo, President of CPA.

The project also includes IOM's efforts to support the GoTL in mainstreaming protection approaches, including GBV risks during emergencies, providing safe spaces for the vulnerable groups during disasters, and community outreach on disaster preparedness and early warning systems. At the same time, the project supports the Camp Coordination and Camp Management/Emergency Shelter cluster in which IOM is the co-lead.



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