

## By UNMISSET Spokesperson's Office

Dili, 17 June 2003.

### **Flooding update: one person dead, over 100 displaced**

One person died in Viqueque yesterday when he was trying to cross a local [Lugas] river, and another is missing in Manufahi [Same], as heavy rain continues to cause widespread flooding in Cova Lima, Manufahi and Viqueque.

In Suai [Cova Lima district], where the rainfall in the past 24 hours alone has been equal to the average monthly rainfall, some 100 people have been evacuated and PKF are sheltering them next to the headquarters of the Thai Battalion. PKF continues to evacuate people as the floods are rising rapidly in the area. The Commander of Sector West, Colonel Wayne Bowen, this afternoon met with local RDTL authorities to coordinate assistance and support measures in the Suai area.

The freak weather conditions have also caused widespread damage to property and loss of livestock. In Manufahi 24 houses were destroyed in one sub-village [Ailora], with a further four houses destroyed and many animals lost in another [Knua Alas].

Bridges and roads in Viqueque, Cova Lima [Suai area] and Manufahi [Same area] are impassable, and this is severely restricting assistance from outside these areas. Helicopters too cannot fly there under the current weather conditions.

Police are warning the public not to travel to these areas while the bad weather persists.

