



TV

UNITED NATIONS NATIONS UNIES

U.N. IN ACTION

Week of 21 February 2005

Programme No. 945

Length: 3'37"

TIMOR LESTE COUNTS ITS FUTURE

VIDEO

MYSTERIOUS, MOUNTAINS

FIGHTING FOOTAGE

PHOTO OF BROTHER ON HOUSE
WALL

AUDIO

NARRATION

The serene mist-wrapped mountains of Timor Leste in Southeast Asia hide a painful and bloody past.....

(NATURAL SOUND) – War.

....Nearly twenty-five years of Indonesian occupation,
...followed by waves of violence after a vote for independence in 1999 sparked deadly reprisals by pro-Indonesian militia
---- violence that killed Isabelle Gonsalvez's brother.

NARRATION

By the time U.N. peacekeeping troops intervened later that year, the country was in chaos
– so many of its inhabitants dead or displaced...its economy devastated.

Today, the world's newest nation faces the

urgent task of development...

... but it lacks the data to show what resources are needed, where, and by whom?

BAKER ON-CAMERA

BAKER:

“There’s a lot of information we just don’t know so we need a census to find out”

UNFPA

NARRATION

Dan Baker, U.N. Population Fund’s Representative in Timor Leste.

(Natsot) He’s helping organize the first national census since independence.

BAKER ON-CAMERA

BAKER:

“Where do you build a school, where is the best place for a clinic? All of those things are really important. You can’t do that without hard population data.”

DESTRUCTION

NARRATION:

That data may be essential... but collecting it is a challenge.

There are an estimated eight-hundred thousand people...

HIDDEN HOUSES

...some one-hundred and eighty-thousand houses

- many of them tucked away in remote hamlets, ...many others scattered along miles of rugged coastline.

In a collaborative effort, the U.N. Population Fund

SERVICE AD FOR CENSUS
CAMPAIGN

and the Timor-Leste government mobilized over three-thousand census workers
– having them use any...and every...means necessary to reach the people, no matter how difficult the journey.

U.N. Mapping Expert Wine Langeraar...

LANGERAAR:

“There are no street names, no addresses, no numbers, no zip codes”

LANGERAAR ON-CAMERA

NARRATION

Langeraar says registering the exact location of a home is essential

CENSUS WORKERS

...if the government wants to return with the needed development resources post-census.
But just how to do that?

LANGERAAR:

“It was an idea is to use GPS to put every household on the map”

LANGERAAR ON-CAMERA

NARRATION

GPS SYSTEM/WORKERS

GPS – or Global Positioning System.

Using a handheld receiver no bigger than a cell phone, this cutting-edge technology accesses a network of satellites to pinpoint the exact coordinates of a house.

Census workers store that data for later mapping

INTERVIEWERS AT WORK

At the same time, interviewers collect detailed information about the home's inhabitants, their needs and their resources.

Timor Leste is the first nation ever to use such cutting-edge technology in this way ...and Prime Minister Mari Alkatari is proud that his fledgling country is a pioneer...

ALKATARI ON-CAMERA

ALKATARI:

"I hope we will be very successful to be an example for others"

MAN ON HORSEBACK

NARRATION:

But while the example of Timor Leste may be one for the history books, ...for Isabelle and her family, it is ultimately a very personal story.

The census is a chance to be counted, and after so much pain and loss....finally, a chance to be heard.

LOGO

This report was prepared by Richard Sydenham for the United Nations.