



Didang Alibasi, 13, fetches water in a temporary makeshift camp, after Super Typhoon Rai left 912,000 children in need of humanitarian assistance in the Philippines. UNICEF has supported more than 280,000 people with access to clean WASH services following the typhoon.

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Humanitarian Action for Children

East Asia and Pacific Region

HIGHLIGHTS¹

- East Asia and the Pacific remains the region most prone to natural hazards worldwide, with an average of 122 million people affected yearly throughout the region.² This is severely exacerbated by the negative impacts of climate change and often compounded by such human-caused hazards as conflict and civil unrest. It is estimated that annual economic losses arising from climate-related risks could reach 4.2 per cent of regional gross domestic product under the worst case climate change scenario.³
- UNICEF engages in a holistic disaster risk management approach to support country offices, governments and partners by strengthening emergency preparedness, building local and national capacities and providing technical expertise for child-sensitive, gender-informed and disability-inclusive humanitarian action.
- UNICEF maintains an agile system to rapidly deploy funding and technical capacity from the regional and global rosters to quickly respond to sudden-onset events.
- UNICEF is seeking US\$29 million to respond to these critical needs in 2023, including US\$25.4 million for emergency response and US\$3.6 million for emergency preparedness, disaster risk reduction, climate resilience and cross-sectoral support. Twenty-four countries and territories are directly covered by this regional appeal.

IN NEED



10.9 million children missed first dose of measles vaccine⁴



2.1 million children affected by severe wasting⁵



89 million people lacking basic hygiene services at home⁶



122 million people affected by natural disasters in the region⁷



This map does not reflect a position by UNICEF on the legal status of any country or territory or the delimitation of any frontiers. The countries in light blue are embedded in this regional appeal. The countries in dark blue have corresponding standalone appeals or are covered under crisis appeals.

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

US\$ 29 million

HUMANITARIAN SITUATION

East Asia and the Pacific remains the most disaster-prone region in the world. Over the past 50 years, natural hazards in Asia and the Pacific have affected 6.9 billion people and killed more than 2 million.⁸ Several countries situated along the Pacific Ring of Fire are prone to earthquakes, volcanic activity and tsunamis. In January 2022, an underwater volcano in the Pacific near Tonga erupted violently, shooting a 5 km-wide plume of ash, steam and gas into the air, affecting 84 per cent of the Tongan population, including 36,500 children.⁹

The region is also significantly affected by the negative impacts of climate change, with the more frequent occurrence of more intense cyclones, floods and droughts. In December 2021, Super Typhoon Rai (local name Odette) swept over the Philippines, leaving 2.4 million people, including 912,000 children, in need of humanitarian assistance.¹⁰ The La Niña weather phenomenon, which has already caused prolonged drought in the equatorial Pacific, affecting more than 100,000 people in the Pacific Island States of Kiribati and Tuvalu,¹¹ headed in 2022 into its third consecutive year, further increasing the risk of extreme weather events across the region.

In addition, protracted crises and migration due to unresolved conflict and ethnic strife in several countries in the region continue to affect the lives of children and their families and infringe upon their human rights. Disasters, conflict and migration increase the risk of different forms of gender-based violence, especially for women and girls. Girls and boys, including those with disabilities, are exposed to heightened risks of physical and emotional violence, abuse and exploitation. This is exacerbated by the socioeconomic impacts of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, which include high malnutrition levels, school dropout and rising poverty levels and are still felt in most countries in the region.

HUMANITARIAN STRATEGY

The UNICEF East Asia and the Pacific Regional Office will focus on enhancing the emergency preparedness and response capabilities of country offices, government counterparts and partners by establishing adequate preparedness measures and providing technical expertise and strengthening systems for child-sensitive and child-inclusive humanitarian action, in line with the Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action.¹² UNICEF will expand its capacity-building programme for national disaster management agencies and line ministries in the region, which was successfully piloted in Viet Nam and the Philippines.

To respond rapidly to sudden-onset emergencies in the region, the East Asia and Pacific Regional Office maintains an agile system to rapidly deploy funding and technical capacity from the regional roster. This is instrumental in enabling country offices to swiftly start providing life-saving emergency support to children and their families in the areas of health, nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), child protection, education and cash assistance.¹³

UNICEF will also support governments and partners to strengthen capacities for social and behavioural change, child-centred disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation. To support a risk-informed programming approach, thereby contributing to the humanitarian-development-peace nexus, UNICEF will analyse multidimensional risks and threats to children; integrate disaster risk reduction and climate change strategies into development plans; and build inclusive shock-responsive social protection systems.

UNICEF will continue to strengthen cross-sectoral efforts to holistically support early childhood development in emergencies and address the needs of children with disabilities, adolescents and women and girls in humanitarian settings, focusing on gender-based violence, accountability to affected populations and the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse.

To ensure greater predictability and accountability in humanitarian settings and learn from previous emergencies, UNICEF will continue to evaluate its humanitarian work and advance knowledge management and evidence-based humanitarian innovations.

STORY FROM THE FIELD



When Sione first heard the volcanic explosion, he ran to look out at the sea.

His family's home faces the foreshore in Sopu, Tonga. As the explosions increased and he watched the waves build up, Sione knew something terrible was about to happen.

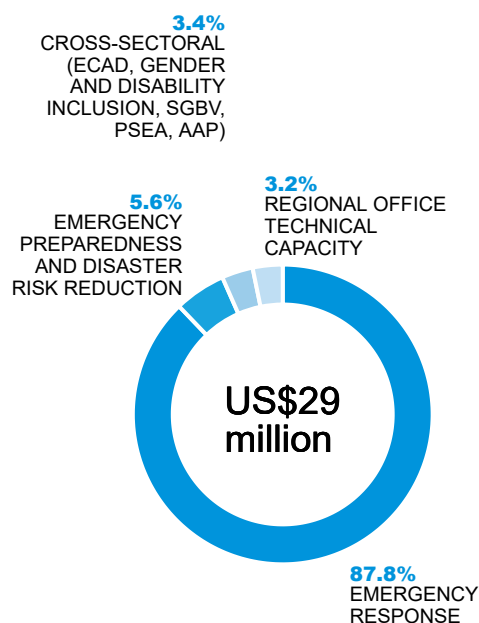
The family needed to get to safety – and fast. Sione's mother and siblings piled into the car, but there was not enough space. Being the only boy, Sione decided to flee on foot.

"I was shocked and scared because I have never seen anything like this before in my life," he says.

[Read more about this story here](#)

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS IN 2023

In 2023, UNICEF requires US\$29 million to meet the humanitarian needs of children, adolescents and women affected by emergencies in the East Asia and Pacific region. These funds will enable UNICEF to support country office emergency responses to sudden-onset emergencies within 24 hours. The funds will also contribute to the regional climate and disaster resilience agenda through increased investments in disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation. This is particularly important in the region, because recurring disasters continuously impact people's lives and livelihoods. UNICEF will make strategic investments to mitigate disaster- and climate-change-related risks and strengthen the resilience of vulnerable communities, thus protecting development gains. UNICEF will invest in better data and analysis of risks and their anticipated impacts on vulnerable groups; the integration of disaster risk reduction and climate change into development programming; and building national and regional preparedness and response capacities. Without adequate and timely funding, UNICEF will be unable to effectively prepare for and immediately deploy needed support in sudden-onset emergencies to fulfill the rights of impacted children and families.



Sector	2023 requirements (US\$) ¹⁴
Emergency response	25,475,800 ¹⁵
Emergency preparedness and disaster risk reduction	1,612,000
Cross-sectoral (ECAD, gender and disability inclusion, SGBV, PSEA, AAP)	978,000
Regional office technical capacity	936,300
Total	29,002,100

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ENDNOTES

1. COVID-19 remains a Public Health Emergency of International Concern as declared by the World Health Organization in January 2020. On 1 July 2022, UNICEF deactivated its Level 3 Sustained Phase for the global COVID-19 pandemic response. All activities related to COVID-19 pandemic response, including programme targets and funding requirements, have been shifted into regular development programming and operations. While UNICEF's Level 3 emergency response phase of the COVID-19 pandemic was deactivated, the organization is continuing to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on children, their families and their communities and on the social systems they rely on.
2. The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, Resilience in a Riskier World: Managing systemic risks from biological and other natural hazards, Asia-Pacific Disaster Report 2021, United Nations, Bangkok, 2021, available at <www.unescap.org/sites/default/d8files/knowledge-products/Asia-Pacific%20Disaster%20Report%202021-Full%20report.pdf>.
3. Ibid.
4. WHO/UNICEF Immunization Coverage Estimates 2021, July 2022.
5. UNICEF, UNICEF Data, Malnutrition, online information, available at <<https://data.unicef.org/topic/nutrition/malnutrition/>>.
6. WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene, Progress on Drinking Water, Sanitation and Hygiene 2000-2020: five years into the SDGs, World Health Organization and UNICEF, Geneva, 2021, available at <https://washdata.org/sites/default/files/2022-01/jmp-2021-wash-households_3.pdf>.
7. The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, Resilience in a Riskier World: Managing systemic risks from biological and other natural hazards, 2021, available at <<https://www.unescap.org/sites/default/d8files/knowledge-products/Asia-Pacific%20Disaster%20Report%202021-Full%20report.pdf>>.
8. Ibid.
9. UNICEF Pacific Islands Multi-Country Office, Humanitarian Situation in Tonga Report No. 3 - As of 21 January 2022, 21 January 2022, available at <<https://www.unicef.org/media/114446/file/Pacific-Islands-Volcanic-Tsunami-SitReport-21-January-2022.pdf>>.
10. UNICEF, Humanitarian Action for Children Appeal 2022, the Philippines, available at <www.unicef.org/media/114971/file/2022-HAC-Philippines.pdf>.
11. UNICEF Pacific Islands Multi-Country Office, Humanitarian Situation in Tonga Report No. 1 - As of 8 August 2022, 8 August 2022, available at <www.unicef.org/media/125171/file/Pacific-Islands-Humanitarian-SitRep-No.1-Drought-in-Kiribati-and-Tuvalu-August-2022.pdf>.
12. UNICEF is committed to empowering local responders in humanitarian crises in a variety of ways. The revised Core Commitments made investing in strengthening the capacities of local actors in the humanitarian response a mandatory benchmark for UNICEF action. A more localized response will improve humanitarian action and is fundamental to achieving better accountability to affected populations.
13. In 2021, emergency funding was released to the Pacific Islands Multi-Country Office within one day for the response to the volcanic eruption in Tonga. This enabled the rapid deployment of pre-positioned emergency supplies. Likewise, funding was also provided to the Philippines Country Office for the response to Super Typhoon Rai (Odette).
14. For 2023, regional humanitarian requirements exclude COVID-19-related interventions, because these have been integrated instead into longer-term development needs and regular programmes of country offices. Additionally, the country office emergency-related requirements have been integrated into the emergency response budget line, hence the increase of this funding ask.
15. This budget line includes the funding requirements for the Regional Rapid Emergency Response Fund. This is an agile system to rapidly deploy funding and technical capacity from the regional roster to quickly respond to any sudden-onset events.