



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. 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.
- 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\$64.4 million to respond to these critical needs in 2023, including US\$60.0 million for emergency response and US\$4.4 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 vaccine²



2.1 million children affected by severe wasting³



89 million people lacking basic hygiene services at home⁴



122 million people affected by natural disasters in the region⁵



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\$64.4 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. Several countries situated along the Pacific Ring of Fire are prone to earthquakes, volcanic activity and tsunamis. In March 2023, an unprecedented twin category 4 and 5 cyclones and an earthquake devastated Vanuatu, directly affecting two thirds of the total population.

The region is also significantly affected by the negative impacts of climate change, with more frequent occurrence of more intense cyclones, floods and droughts, and increased risks of public health emergencies (such as outbreaks of water and vector-borne diseases). The La Niña weather phenomenon, which caused prolonged drought in the equatorial Pacific, affecting more than 100,000 people in the Pacific Island States of Kiribati and Tuvalu, has now evolved into an El Niño event, further intensifying the drought since July 2023, requiring additional response actions, in particular to address extreme water scarcity. The El Niño event further increases the likelihood of extreme weather events across the region.

In addition, protracted crises and migration due to unresolved conflict and intercommunal violence in several countries in the region continue to affect the lives of children and their families and infringe upon their human rights, with growing humanitarian needs in particular along the Thai-Myanmar border.

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 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

UNICEF Country Offices across East Asia and the Pacific Region will ensure integrated, multisectoral responses in line with governments response plans and the Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action, to deliver life-saving services for children, women and families affected by natural hazards, climatic shocks, intercommunal violence and conflict, and disease outbreaks. With support from the Regional Office, UNICEF Country Offices will focus on enhancing their emergency preparedness and response capabilities, as well as those of government counterparts and partners, by establishing adequate preparedness measures and providing technical expertise and strengthening systems for child-sensitive and child-inclusive humanitarian action.

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.

UNICEF will expand its capacity-building programme for national disaster management agencies and line ministries, and will 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, 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, UNICEF will continue to evaluate its humanitarian work and advance knowledge management and evidence-based humanitarian innovations.

This appeal is aligned with the revised Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action, which are based on global standards and norms for humanitarian action.

STORY FROM THE FIELD



Sione Falani Kuli Ha'apai, 18, stands in front of his home in Sopu, on Tonga's main island. His home was damaged by the Hunga Tonga-Hunga Ha'apai underwater volcano eruption and tsunami.

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.

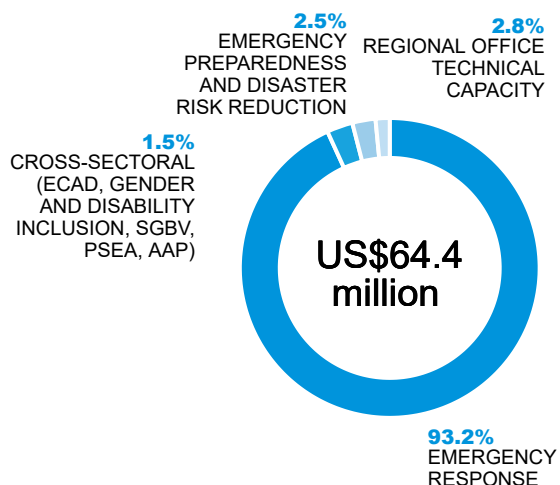
The family needed to get to safety – and fast. Sione's mother and siblings piled into the car, but there was not enough space. Being the only boy, Sione decided to flee on foot.

"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\$64.4 million to meet the humanitarian needs of children, adolescents and women affected by emergencies in the East Asia and Pacific region. The funding needs have increased significantly during the course of the year as Country Offices in the region have responded to humanitarian needs resulting from climate-induced natural hazards - including the unprecedented twin category 4 and 5 cyclones and an earthquake which devastated Vanuatu in March, and droughts in Kiribati and Mongolia; public health emergencies - including outbreaks of polio, typhoid, measles; and displacement caused by conflict and civil unrest. These funds will enable UNICEF to continue to respond to these, and any arising, emergency situations, and will also contribute to building national capacities and systems for emergency preparedness and response, disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation. This is particularly important in the region, where recurring disasters continuously impact people's lives and livelihoods. UNICEF will also invest in better data and analysis of risks and their anticipated impacts on vulnerable groups. 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.



Appeal sector	Revised 2023 HAC requirement (US\$)
Emergency response	60,000,000
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	1,800,000
Total	64,390,000

Appeal sector	Original 2023 HAC requirement (US\$)	Revised 2023 HAC requirement (US\$)	Funds available (US\$)	Funding gap (US\$)	Funding gap (%)
Emergency response ⁷	25,475,800	60,000,000	56,337,020	3,662,980	6.1%
Emergency preparedness and disaster risk reduction	1,612,000	1,612,000	974,055	637,945	39.6%
Cross-sectoral (ECAD, gender and disability inclusion, SGBV, PSEA, AAP)	978,000	978,000	374,844	603,156	61.7%
Regional office technical capacity	936,300	1,800,000	1,765,108	34,892	1.9%
Total	29,002,100	64,390,000	59,451,027	4,938,973	7.7%

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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. WHO/UNICEF Immunization Coverage Estimates 2021, July 2022.
3. UNICEF, UNICEF Data, Malnutrition, online information, available at <<https://data.unicef.org/topic/nutrition/malnutrition/>>.
4. 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>.
5. 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>>.
6. 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.
7. 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.