



Humanitarian Action for Children

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East Asia and the Pacific

East Asia and the Pacific is the most disaster-stricken region in the world.¹ In 2016, disasters affected more than 86 million people in the region, compared with 40 million.² In February 2018, Papua New Guinea was struck by a 7.5 magnitude earthquake which caused devastating landslides and widespread destruction. Some 270,000 people, including 125,000 children, are in need of immediate life-saving assistance.³ More generally, across the region, population growth, rapid urbanization, environmental degradation and other factors continue to accelerate and exacerbate hazard trends. Hazards associated with climate change are increasing in frequency and severity and leading to extreme weather events, drought and frequent floods/landslides. The recurrent typhoons in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), the Philippines, Viet Nam and the Pacific sub-region continue to exacerbate existing vulnerabilities, pose new health risks and challenge the establishment and delivery of quality infrastructure and basic services. Internal armed conflicts and ethnic strife, particularly in Myanmar and the Philippines, led to the internal and cross-border displacement and mass migration of more than 1 million people, more than 55 per cent of whom are children and adolescents.⁴ The tense political situation and recent United Nations sanctions have negatively impacted the well-being of children in the DPRK, who were already experiencing an acute nutritional crisis. The growth of populations and infrastructure in hazardous coastal areas, which are becoming disaster hotspots, also represents a key challenge.

Regional humanitarian strategy

UNICEF's East Asia and the Pacific Regional Office will continue to strengthen regional capacities for preparedness and humanitarian response; expand sustainable access to improved nutrition, health, water, sanitation, education and child protection services; and foster social cohesion for greater resilience. The Regional Office will support country cooperation by providing technical support to national stakeholders and strengthening systems and institutions to facilitate quality assurance and standard setting that will improve the delivery of humanitarian action for children. Regional partners and country offices will be supported to contribute to regional and national policies and systems and make these inclusive and child-sensitive. The Regional Office will also work with country offices to strengthen government capacities for child-sensitive risk assessment and planning that supports shock-resistant development interventions and longer-term approaches. Continuing contributions to the regional partnerships with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, the Inter-Agency Standing Committee and the Children in a Changing Climate Coalition will support effective action for children that addresses climate change, resilience building and disaster risk reduction. Knowledge management will be strengthened through research, studies and the documentation of good practices and lessons learned to generate evidence and facilitate greater predictability and accountability in humanitarian response in the context of a changing region. The Regional Office will continue to foster innovation and build country capacities to implement emerging humanitarian response modalities, such as cash transfers in emergencies, the provision of quality health services to reduce the impact of air pollution on child health, and engagement with children, including children with disabilities and adolescents. Given the increasing government capacities for emergency response in the region, the Regional Office will work with country offices to carry out relief efforts through regional mechanisms that draw on country expertise and pool resources to provide surge support. The Regional Office will also invest in its own capacity to cover all facets of its humanitarian-development programming, in line with its child rights mandate.

Results from 2017

In 2017, funds received under the HAC enabled effective regional support for humanitarian response in and enhanced preparedness/disaster risk reduction. This included the provision of nutrition and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) interventions in response to severe winter conditions in Mongolia and drought and salt water intrusion in Viet Nam. In the Philippines, the immediate needs of displaced communities in Marawi were addressed through the provision of WASH, nutrition, health, education and child protection services. Pacific Island countries undertook several WASH interventions, including capacity building, supply pre-positioning and the development of emergency preparedness and response plans/toolkits. Twenty-five staff received training through the Regional Rapid Response Mechanism, which enhanced their capacities for rapid emergency response and increased standing humanitarian surge capacity for deployment within the region. In addition, UNICEF staff from eight countries received emergency preparedness and response training with regional support. The UNICEF country offices in Cambodia, Myanmar, the Philippines and Viet Nam received technical support to adapt shock-responsive social protection mechanisms. To strengthen knowledge management for humanitarian action, an after-action review was conducted in Viet Nam and shared with partners in a lessons learned exercise.

Papua New Guinea (PNG)

On 26 February 2018, Papua New Guinea was struck by a 7.5 magnitude earthquake, which caused devastating landslides and widespread destruction across the four provinces of Hela, Southern Highlands, Western Province and Enga. More than 100 people were killed and many more injured. Some 270,000 people, including 125,000 children, are in need of immediate life-saving assistance as they lost access to clean water sources, health facilities, their homes and gardens they relied on for food.⁵ As of 20 April, 11,041 households (42,5777 people) remain displaced due to the earthquake, including an estimated 24,100 people reportedly living in informal communal shelters without adequate water and sanitation.⁶

Humanitarian Strategy

The inter-agency strategic objectives agreed by the Disaster Management Team (DMT) include: (i) provision of life-saving assistance to affected populations and re-establishment of basic services; (ii) restoration of livelihoods and self-reliance; and (iii) provision of safety and protection for vulnerable people, including children and women. Working through national and provincial governments and with local faith-based organizations, UNICEF contributes towards the achievement of these objectives through its integrated approach, providing life-saving assistance in health and nutrition, supporting access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene education, children's access to safe learning spaces, providing psychosocial support and education for parents and primary caretakers of children. UNICEF has also prioritized community engagement and communication with affected populations through churches, community volunteers and local social media as key cross-cutting strategy.

2018 Programme Targets

	UNICEF 2018 Target
NUTRITION	
Children < 5 years old with severe acute malnutrition admitted into therapeutic feeding programme	1,240
Children < 5 years old receiving micronutrient supplementation incl. Vitamin A	47,616
Pregnant and lactating women counselled on infant and young child feeding (IYCF)	69,600
HEALTH	
Children < 5 years and women of reproductive age receiving pentavalent, MR and TT vaccinations	163,616
Children < 5 years receiving PHC services in UNICEF-supported facilities	56,576
Women (15-49 years) reached with information on life-saving behaviours and available services	100,096
WASH	
People who have access to safe drinking water, functional latrines and are receiving life-saving hygiene messages	100,000
CHILD PROTECTION	
Children at risk and those who have experienced violence are identified and receive case management services	3,000
Children and adolescents reached with psychosocial support services	15,000
EDUCATION	
Children (3-14 years) who are enrolled in non-formal/formal education, including early learning	10,000
Teachers reached with teaching kits and training support	5,000

Funding requirements

EAPRO is requesting US\$20,102,574 for regional and country-level humanitarian activities to support response and strengthen emergency preparedness, and advance disaster risk reduction interventions that will contribute to resilience in East Asia and the Pacific. The funding will allow the Regional Office to continue to support efforts to strengthen the technical and cooperation capacities of country offices and their national partners. It will also allow to respond to the humanitarian needs in small and medium-scale emergencies that may not benefit from inter-agency appeals. The budgeted amount includes the additional US\$13,790,574 for UNICEF's response to the earthquake in Papua New Guinea.

East Asia/Pacific Region	2018 requirements
Emergency Response support	5,400,000
Emergency Preparedness/Disaster Risk Reduction	519,000
Regional Office technical capacity	393,000
Total	6,312,000

Papua New Guinea	2018 requirements
Health	2,197,958
Nutrition	2,043,256
Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	3,496,000
Education	2,530,000
Child Protection	3,523,360
Total	13,790,574

¹ The Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery, 2017

² The International Disaster Database, 2017

³ PNG Highlands Earthquake Disaster Management Team (DMT) Response Plan, March 2018

⁴ United Nations Children's Fund East Asia and the Pacific Regional Office, 2017

⁵ PNG Highlands Earthquake Disaster Management Team (DMT) Response Plan, March 2018

⁶ Shelter Cluster, Displacement Tracking Matrix, April 2018

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