

HIGHLIGHTS

- At least 11 countries across Asia-Pacific experienced severe weather conditions due to *El Niño*.
- In February, Tropical Cyclone Winston, the strongest cyclone recorded in the South Pacific, devastated Fiji.
- In DPR Korea, 18 million people are in need of some form of humanitarian assistance – 2016 response plan severely underfunded.
- Tropical Storm Roanu triggers worst flooding in Sri Lanka in 25 years; preparedness actions mitigated loss of life in Bangladesh.

FIGURES

No. of countries affected by severe weather conditions attributed to <i>El Niño</i>	11
Probability of a <i>La Niña</i> event	50%
CERF allocation for Asia-Pacific	31.6 million (US\$)
No. of people targeted for assistance in Myanmar and DPRK	14 million

Source: IASC Regional Network; CERF secretariat; Australia Bureau of Meteorology; 2016 Myanmar and DPRK strategic response plans

FUNDING

351 million
requested (US\$)

for response plans in Myanmar, Fiji and DPR Korea

27% funded

Source: Financial Tracking Service



In this issue

El Niño and *La Niña* P.1

WHS and Cyclone Winston P.2

DPRK Needs and Priorities P.3

Tropical Storm Roanu P.4

La Niña may impact *El Niño* recovery efforts

Millions of people affected by *El Niño* across 11 countries, remain at risk

Analysis of ocean temperature and atmospheric conditions as of the end of May indicate that the **2015 to 2016 *El Niño* event** has ended in the Pacific. While many countries in Asia and the Pacific have been able to mitigate the most serious humanitarian impact of *El Niño*, pockets of needs remain, particularly in hard to access areas. With food security risks expected to persist until the end of the year, the possibility of *La Niña* impacting these same communities will exacerbate these vulnerabilities even further.

During the past six months, erratic and severe weather conditions attributed to *El Niño* have been felt across at least 11 countries. Low rainfall has caused extended dry spells or drought in Southeast Asia and the Pacific, while Mongolia suffered from what is known locally as a *dzud* - a dry summer followed by extreme winter.

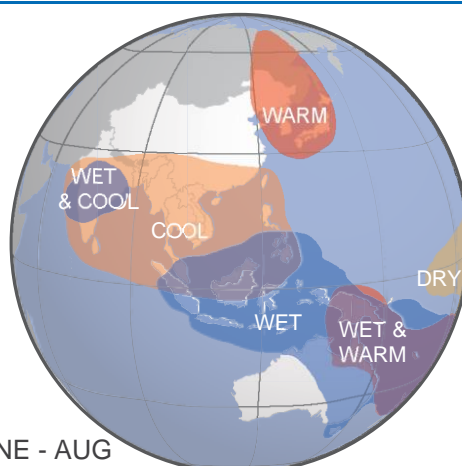
The impact of *El Niño* has been particularly acute in the Pacific where a significant proportion of the population in some countries including Micronesia, Marshall Islands, Timor-Leste and Papua New Guinea (PNG) have been experiencing severe drought. Despite the onset of monsoon rains, which have eased conditions in some areas of these countries, food insecurity remains a concern especially in remote communities where the delivery of assistance is particularly challenging.

In areas with high levels of pre-existing poverty, the onset of *El Niño* created a need for immediate water, food security, nutrition and health interventions. To respond to these needs and to facilitate longer term recovery, six countries (Viet Nam, Mongolia, Palau, PNG, Marshall Islands and Timor-Leste) developed **in-country *El Niño* response plans between January and June 2016**, with a total funding requirement of US\$138 million.

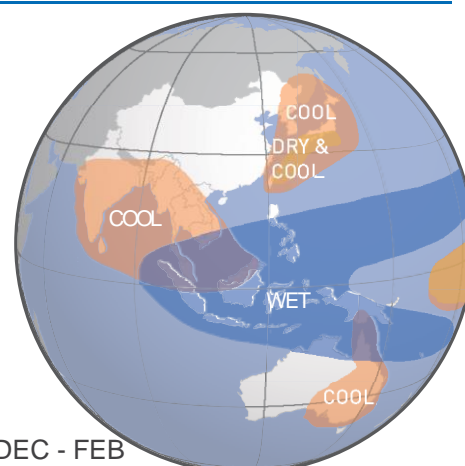
Asia-Pacific: *El Niño* affected countries

Fiji
Indonesia
Marshall Islands
Micronesia
Mongolia
Palau
Papua New Guinea
Philippines
Timor-Leste
Vanuatu
Viet Nam

EXPECTED EFFECTS OF *LA NIÑA*



JUNE - AUG



DEC - FEB

Source: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (NOAA), National Centers for Environmental Prediction (NCEP)

Climate forecast models indicate that there is now a 50 per cent probability of a *La Niña* event occurring from October to November. *La Niña* is usually characterized by higher than average rainfall which can cause severe flooding. In Viet Nam, which has experienced the worst drought in 60 years affecting two million people, early outlook by the national weather bureau reported a 75 per cent probability of *La Niña* beginning in September. With the *El Niño* weather phenomena over, the challenge will now be to address the outstanding humanitarian needs as well as to plan for the potential future impacts of *La Niña*.

World Humanitarian Summit

First ever World Humanitarian Summit brings together 173 UN Member States including 36 from Asia-Pacific, disaster affected communities, the private sector and civil society organizations

On 23 and 24 May, the first ever [World Humanitarian Summit](#) (WHS) was held in Istanbul, Turkey. The WHS brought together over 9,000 participants representing 173 UN Member States – including 36 from Asia and the Pacific – as well as international, national and local civil society, community representatives, private sector, academia and other stakeholders.

The strong Asia-Pacific engagement at the WHS built upon three regional consultations held between July 2014 and July 2015, with members of the Asia and Pacific Regional Steering Groups emphasizing that disaster management and climate change must be centrally positioned within the Summit agenda. Other priority initiatives from the region that featured prominently in the [final commitments from the Summit](#) include: promoting localization of humanitarian response; increasing accountability to people and communities affected by disasters; and bridging humanitarian and development work to build more resilient communities.

Several regional intergovernmental organizations from the Asia-Pacific region, including the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) and South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), were founding members of the Regional Organizations Humanitarian Action Network (ROHAN), which was launched in Istanbul. Through ROHAN, members committed to building partnerships; exchanging knowledge and mutual learning; reinforcing local systems; and investing in data and risk analysis. The first meeting of ROHAN as an established network is expected to take place in November 2016 in Jakarta, Indonesia, hosted by ASEAN.

Beyond Istanbul, the Asia and Pacific Regional Steering Groups, supported by the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) Regional Offices in Bangkok (Asia-Pacific) and Suva (Pacific), are looking at how best to support regional stakeholders to take forward their WHS commitments. A regional Road Map will be produced in the coming months as global arrangements for the WHS follow-up are confirmed, with the aim of ensuring coherence among the priorities and actions planned for the implementation of the post-2015 global agendas on disaster risk reduction, sustainable development, climate change and humanitarian assistance. It will also capitalize on the region's unique challenges, capacities and experiences, and seek to share lessons learned in Asia-Pacific with other parts of the world.

Tropical Cyclone Winston: Localizing response to sudden-onset disasters

On 20 February 2016, Tropical Cyclone Winston struck Fiji as a Category 5 storm with wind speeds of up to 320 km/h causing widespread damage. Given the severe impact of the disaster, the Government of Fiji immediately launched a large-scale response supported by local and international partners to deliver emergency relief across hundreds of islands.

Prior to Cyclone Winston, Pacific governments had been actively advocating for increased space to provide a more localized response to disasters; a message also taken up during WHS. This localized approach was embraced



Credit: OCHA/Danielle Parry. Koro Island, Fiji – Group of women whose families had been left homeless by Tropical Cyclone Winston prepare donated food.



350,000

People affected by TC Winston



44

People killed



50,000

People displaced



300,000+

People provided with
emergency food

51,000

People provided with
emergency shelter

by the Fijian Government during the Winston operation with initial responders, including members of the UN Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) teams, coming primarily from the Asia-Pacific region. This helped to facilitate the mobilization of local resources and enabled partners to reach affected areas despite a challenging logistical environment, and was complemented by strong bilateral response including the use of **foreign military assets**.

During the WHS, participants from the Asia-Pacific region also emphasized the need to broaden partnerships to strengthen humanitarian response, including involving local actors such as civil society and the private sector. This was put into practice during the Winston response, as demonstrated by the high proportion of projects in the **Tropical Cyclone Winston Flash Appeal** implemented by local organizations.

Four months on since Cyclone Winston hit the Fijian islands, most humanitarian needs have now been met. With the development of the Disaster Recovery Framework, authorities are now focused on the medium and longer term recovery activities. The response also serves as an example of how many of the core commitments emanating from the WHS can be effectively put into practice within the Asia-Pacific region.

DPR Korea: 2016 Needs and Priorities

18 million people are in need of some form of humanitarian assistance

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) continues to experience a protracted humanitarian situation that remains largely forgotten by the global agenda. UN agencies and partners, operating inside DPRK, estimate that 70 per cent of the population, or 18 million people, now require some form of humanitarian assistance.


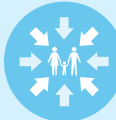



Credit: WFP/Rein Skullerud

2.4 million pregnant and lactating women and children under-5 at risk of malnutrition in DPR Korea – \$122 million response plan is severely underfunded

Since the mid-1990s the country has experienced widespread food shortages that have been compounded by frequent natural disasters including floods and droughts. Between 2004 and 2015, over 5.6 million people were affected by natural disasters in DPRK.

Currently, 41.6 per cent of the population is under-nourished as a result of food scarcity and a lack of sufficient quality and diversity of food. Under-nutrition is a major under-lying cause of maternal and child mortality with 2.4 million pregnant and lactating women and children under-5 at risk of malnutrition and 1.7 million children at risk of deadly childhood illnesses such as diarrhoea or pneumonia. Millions of people are also without access to clean water, sanitation and basic health care services.

TOTAL PEOPLE IN NEED	TOTAL PEOPLE TARGETED	TOTAL FUNDING REQUIREMENT
 18M	 13M	 122M

To meet the humanitarian needs of 13 million people, UN agencies, NGOs and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent developed the [DPR Korea 2016: Needs and Priorities](#) as without sustained humanitarian support, gains made in the last 10 years could quickly be reversed. The objectives of the plan are to meet life-saving needs, improve nutritional outcomes of the most vulnerable people, and ensure access to basic services. As such it seeks \$122 million for food and agricultural support, health and nutrition, and water and sanitation interventions. In February and March, the UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) provided \$8 million to continue life-saving services, however, as of 30 June, the DPRK response plan remain severely underfunded at 22 per cent.

Bay of Bengal cyclone season first storm

Tropical Storm Roanu triggers worst flooding in Sri Lanka in 25 years

On 15 May, Tropical Storm Roanu, developed during the first of the two cyclone seasons in the Bay of Bengal (around April to June), battered Sri Lanka, triggering floods and landslides across the country. Buildings were destroyed, entire villages submerged and 296,000 people were displaced from their homes following the worst flooding in 25 years. Over 100 fatalities were confirmed by the Disaster Management Center of Sri Lanka.

The cyclone created two distinct emergencies, one rural and one urban. Colombo was the worst affected district mostly as a result of the large numbers of people living on reclaimed, marsh land that is highly vulnerable to flooding. In these flood-affected urban areas, individuals were generally better off compared to those in rural areas pre-emergency. However, this was offset by the fact that many were heavily indebted and had no mechanisms to cope with the loss of their homes or livelihoods.

Assessing and meeting their needs was challenged by fact that, after being forced to leave their homes, large numbers of people in urban areas found shelter with host families rather than in temporary shelters or camps, making them largely invisible.

In response to the disaster, the OCHA Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific supported the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) to quickly access resources through CERF with \$4.6 million subsequently released to provide shelter, health, food, water and sanitation, and protection support. In urban areas, water and sanitation needs were especially acute given the large amounts of standing flood water and the potential for disease outbreaks.

Responding to the unique needs in urban and rural areas is central to the CERF-supported activities. "Many of the people affected are in urban areas and were already vulnerable," said Una McCauley, UN Resident Coordinator for Sri Lanka. "Now they have lost everything, including their homes, possessions, and livelihoods. They are in urgent need of assistance."

1.3 million people affected by Roanu in Bangladesh – preparedness measures saved lives

Tropical Storm Roanu made landfall in Bangladesh on 21 May, leaving 27 people dead, and destroying or damaging more than 75,500 houses. According to the Humanitarian Coordination Task Team (HCTT), an estimated 1.3 million people were affected across the seven worst-impacted districts (Chittagong, Cox's Bazar, Bhola, Barguna, Lakshmipur, Noakhali and Patuakhali).

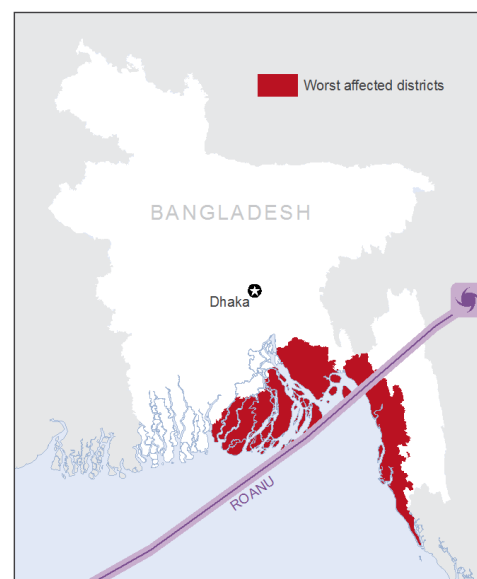
Tropical Storm Roanu displaced 296,000 people in Sri Lanka; pre-emptive evacuations in Bangladesh mitigated loss of life



Credit: WFP/T. Keerthiratne. Malabe, Colombo District, Sri Lanka (May 2016) – Heavy rainfall cause flooding across heavily populated areas of Colombo.

Before the storm hit, the Government activated early warning systems which triggered the evacuation of over 500,000 people to nearly 3,500 cyclone shelters. Due to the preparedness measures initiated by authorities supported by humanitarian partners, loss of life was minimized.

The seven worst-affected districts had also been affected by Cyclone Komen and flash floods in 2015, and had not fully recovered when Roanu struck. With severely damaged coastal embankments still not repaired, the onset of this year's monsoon rains is expected to further aggravate flooding, constrain recovery efforts and exacerbate vulnerabilities. To meet the needs of 432,000 people, the [HCCT developed an in-country joint response plan](#) seeking \$12 million; as of 30 June, the plan is 12 per cent funded.



Kumamoto earthquakes two months on

6,400 people remain in evacuation centres – housing and specialized services needed

Two months since the Kumamoto earthquakes, some 6,400 people remain in evacuation centres

On 14 and 16 April, two major earthquakes measuring 6.5 and 7.3 on the Richter scale hit Kumamoto Prefecture in southern Japan. The earthquakes caused 49 deaths, more than 1,600 injuries and severe damage to housing and infrastructure. According to the Kumamoto Prefectural authority, some 180,000 people were sheltered in temporary facilities such as schools or open spaces at the height of the emergency.

Two months since the earthquakes, 6,400 people remain inside evacuation centres. With the strong national government response, basic services such as electricity, gas, water, telecommunications and transport were quickly restored allowing most of the displaced people to return home. However, permanent housing and specialized services for vulnerable people, particularly the elderly, are still urgently needed. Health and psycho-social care and recovery of livelihoods such as agriculture and local industries also remain priorities.

Following the disaster, local authorities led search and rescue operations, distributed food and non-food items, and provided water, sanitation and medical services. Given the scale of the disaster, the central Government also mobilized additional personnel and assets including from the Japanese Self-Defense Forces, while the Japanese Red Cross Society also deployed its medical emergency team.

At least 220 non-governmental organizations (NGOs), civil society, and private companies contributed to the response at the local level, and their coordination with other responders was facilitated through the Japan Voluntary Organisations Active in Disasters (JVOAD). Having learned lessons from the Great East Japan Earthquake in 2011, JVOAD was created to fill gaps in coordination among Japanese civil society actors and local authorities. In addition, targeted logistics assistance was provided



Credit: Peace Winds Japan. Mashiki-machi, Kumamoto Prefecture, Japan (26 April 2016) – An NGO staff member distributing supplementary food items donated by private companies for evacuees living in emergency shelter.

by the United States Armed Forces, the World Food Programme, and the Republic of Korea provided relief items.

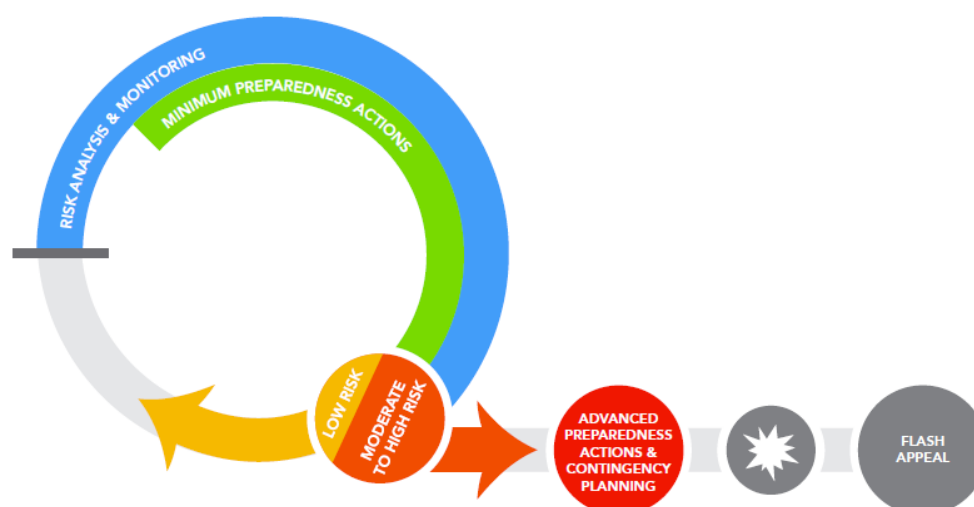
Following this disaster and to ensure better future preparedness, the Government of Japan established a working group to review its emergency response and immediate assistance for the affected populations, with a particular focus on logistics, transport, and the distribution of relief goods; management of evacuation centres; and capacity support for local authorities.

Strengthening preparedness in hazard prone countries

Emergency Response Preparedness approach in Nepal

In a disaster prone country like Nepal, it is the HCT's priority in support of the Government to continuously strive for an advanced level of preparedness. From November 2015 to April 2016, OCHA engaged the HCT in translating lessons from the 2015 Nepal earthquake response to strengthen preparedness actions by rolling out the new [Inter-Agency Standing Committee Emergency Response Preparedness \(ERP\)](#) approach. For the first time, the Government at national and local levels, communities, local and international NGOs, and the private sector were jointly involved in the preparedness process.

Emergency Response Preparedness (ERP) Cycle



In collaboration with national and international seismologists, OCHA and the HCT developed a new scenario to better inform earthquake contingency planning. This new model reflects the latest scientific findings which show that the 2015 events shifted the likelihood of future tremors away from the Kathmandu Valley towards western Nepal.

As part of the process, at-risk communities' suggestions for what they need most in the immediate aftermath of a future earthquake and how they want this assistance to be delivered were captured in order to plan for the prioritization of relief services in a future response. New modalities, including remote access planning, cash transfer programming, community and private sector engagement, gender equality resourcing and civil-military coordination have now become a core element of the [new earthquake contingency plan](#) and will contribute to good practices as the ERP guidelines are rolled out across the Asia-Pacific region.

Roll out of Emergency Response Preparedness approach completed in Nepal; earthquake contingency plan revised

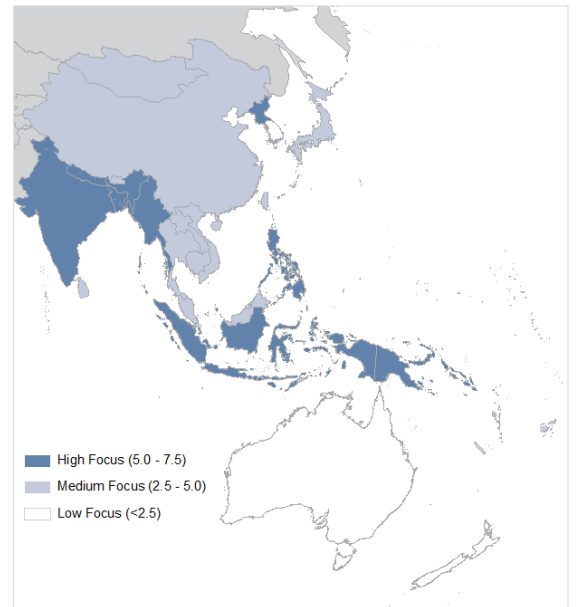
2016 Asia-Pacific Regional Focus Model

2016 Regional Focus Model highlights countries at risk of hazards in Asia and the Pacific

A key challenge faced by humanitarian agencies is ensuring that limited resources are allocated where they are most needed and are efficiently delivered in a principled manner. Decisions to allocate resources must strike a balance between meeting the immediate needs of crisis affected communities and supporting efforts to strengthen resilience and response preparedness to future emergencies.

To support humanitarian partners to address some of these challenges, the [Index for Risk Management](#) (INFORM) was created as a global, open-source risk model which helps identify countries which are exposed to serious hazards, have vulnerable populations and limited capacity to deal with emergencies.

OCHA has taken the INFORM data for the Asia Pacific region and added an additional 'Humanitarian' indicator which measures how likely a country is to accept international humanitarian assistance. This '[Regional Focus Model](#)' is available to the public for the first time. Previous versions of this model have been used by OCHA and humanitarian partners to prioritize, plan, and prepare their interventions throughout the region. With the release of the 2016 model, it is hoped this model and the underlying data can support evidence-based decision-making throughout the region.



In Brief

Special Envoy on *El Niño* and Climate visits PNG and Timor-Leste

From 28 June to 5 July, the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy on *El Niño* and Climate, Ambassador Macharia Kamau, conducted a field mission to PNG and Timor-Leste to understand the impact of *El Niño* in the Asia-Pacific region and strengthen advocacy to ensure that remaining humanitarian needs are met and sustained recovery efforts continue. In a statement, Ambassador Kamau called for a greater focus on both immediate response and preparedness to future climate shocks, especially in light of the likelihood of a *La Niña* event beginning in the latter half of 2016. A *La Niña* event can have a compounding effect on communities already made vulnerable by *El Niño*.

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