



12 year old Henry, a member of the UNICEF-supported Just Play Sports for Development Programme, practices his skills amidst damaged school resources laid out to dry in the remains of Erakor School, Efate. Credit: © UNICEF PACIFIC/2015/SOKHIN

Cyclone Pam Humanitarian Situation Report 13

unicef 

2 – 4 April 2015

Highlights

- 10,865 children have been immunized for measles in Shefa and Sanma Provinces
- 2,572 children in Shefa Province now have access to temporary learning spaces through UNICEF support
- 6,400 children across four provinces to be registered through UNICEF support to the Government
- 2,300 people on Epi and Emae Islands in Shefa Province have access to water through UNICEF support
- Breastfeeding and complementary feeding messages to accompany all food distribution to affected communities in Vanuatu
- 355 jerry cans and 3,660 bars of soap distributed to Anuta, the Duff Islands, Utupua and Vanikoro in the Solomon Islands through UNICEF support
- 70 children in the most affected areas in the northern islands of Tuvalu will receive UNICEF school backpacks with support from a French charter flight

Appeal:

UNICEF needs US\$ 7.72 million over the next 9 months

Vanuatu:

166,600 people on 22 islands affected, including **82,000** children

30,000 people affected on Tanna Island with 50% of homes destroyed

30,000 children targeted by Education Cluster (Early Childhood, Primary and Secondary)

At least 22,000 children need temporary safe learning spaces

10,865 children aged under 5 have been reached by immunization teams

Solomon Islands: Temotu Province receives assistance

Overview

UNICEF has secured only about a half of the funds required to deliver life-saving aid to thousands of children and their families in Vanuatu and other affected countries. While UNICEF is calling for US\$4.8 million as part of the wider United Nations Appeal for Vanuatu for immediate relief assistance over the next three months, an additional US\$2.9 million is needed to provide access to clean water, sanitation and hygiene, life-saving health and nutrition interventions, and education and protection until the end of 2015.

The logistical constraints of this emergency remains a key challenge. Shipping, allocation, distribution and monitoring of supplies through to beneficiaries are priorities. It is critical to ensure that the logistics pipeline continues to be maintained and strengthened over the coming weeks in order to reach all people in need with life-saving assistance. Governments continue to support the cyclone response, through measures including military air and sea assets and personnel with assistance from the Australian Defence Force, New Zealand Defence Force and French Military, among others. In the coming week logistical options will focus on commercial operators as military support is withdrawn.

Humanitarian partners continue to work closely together under Government leadership via the National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) to implement the Government's immediate response plan. The State of Emergency for Vanuatu has been extended for a further two weeks. Beyond the initial 30 day response, UNICEF is currently developing the 60 and 90-day plans for WASH, Health and Nutrition, Education and Child Protection with the intention of strengthening resilience and mitigating the impact of future natural disasters. UNICEF will support the rehabilitation efforts through various channels including the Post Disaster Needs Assessment requested by the Government of Vanuatu.

Humanitarian leadership and coordination

The NDMO continues to coordinate the response with support from various agencies. The United Nations has set up a Humanitarian Response Page (<https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/operations/vanuatu>) as the central repository of documents generated in support of the coordination effort related to Tropical Cyclone Pam.

A Donor Forum, chaired by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Climate Change, was held on 2 April to provide a briefing on the development of the Social and Economic Development Recovery Plan. OCHA outlined the ongoing harmonized assessment process, which are being used to identify residual humanitarian priorities and gaps in lifesaving assistance, as well as early recovery needs. The World Bank provided a brief outline of the process and key dates of the Damage and Loss Assessment (DALA) and Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA). The training of Government leads is currently underway and an extended briefing for NGOs is scheduled for 6 April. UNICEF will support these processes in the area of water, sanitation and hygiene in close coordination with the Government of Vanuatu.

The NDMO is coordinating the response with support from various agencies, governments and partners. The NDMO's Emergency Operation Center is conducting response planning/monitoring activities, supported by the Vanuatu Humanitarian Team (VHT) and humanitarian partners, and daily radio broadcasts throughout the country. UNICEF continues to support the NDMO through provision of the Logistics Coordinator.

The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) is continuing to support the Government in general coordination and response planning. Humanitarian affairs officers are providing support to the NDMO on donor relations, reporting, information management, and public information and includes the Who What Where (3W) database, contact lists and meeting schedules. NDMO, with support from OCHA, is coordinating a harmonized multi-disciplinary assessment approach through Clusters and Ministries. Eleven teams were dispatched simultaneously on 1 April to affected islands in Tafea and Shefa Provinces. The first of the 11 teams deployed across 13 islands in Shefa and Tafea provinces returned on 2 April, and data is being consolidated. Each team is led by a Government of Vanuatu representative and consists of cluster representatives who will visit the central hubs in affected Area Councils to meet with key village representatives and affected people. Information collected will be used to recalibrate and revise humanitarian response planning to ensure that needs are met. UNICEF is supporting in depth assessments through providing personnel to be part of this as well as through the use of mobile phone technology.

| Estimated Affected Population: 166,600 (Source: Flash Appeal launched on 24 March 2015) | | | |
|--|---------|--------|--------|
| Start of humanitarian response: 14 March 2015 | | | |
| | Total | Male | Female |
| Total Affected Population | 166,600 | 83,300 | 83,300 |
| Children Affected (Under 18) ¹ | 82,000 | 41,000 | 41,000 |
| Children Under Five ² | 29,332 | 15,282 | 14,050 |
| Children 6 to 23 months ³ | 8,800 | 4,580 | 4,220 |
| Pregnant women ⁴ | 7,650 | N/A | 7,650 |

UNICEF's response



Education

UNICEF supported over 2,500 primary and early childhood education aged children to return to schools in temporary learning spaces in the province of Shefa. UNICEF set up a 72 square metre school tent at the Vila North School in Port Vila on 2 April where three classrooms had been destroyed. This will provide access to two grade 5 classes and two grade 2 classes to enable children to get back to learning. Some 710 girls and boys will have access to the school backpacks UNICEF provided for Vila North School.

On 3 April four tents from UNICEF were erected at Melemaat Primary School on Efate, where 570 primary school children are enrolled. Backpacks, a recreation kit and a School-in-a-Box were also delivered to Melemaat, where a back to school celebration was organised by the school community, along with psychosocial group counselling by age group. Supplies for Tafea are ready and waiting for confirmation of boat transport to Tafea Province. UNICEF has provided tents that will enable more children to return to schools in temporary learning spaces on Tafea and other provinces. They are being set up with the help of United States of America "All Hands" Volunteers.

UNICEF provided two early childhood development kits and two recreation kits to the Vanuatu Society of Disabled Persons in Port Vila. The Society had their entire premises and all resources destroyed during Pam. These kits will be used to support the Society to restart therapy and early learning on April 13 for children living with disabilities.

An orientation on psycho-social support to children begins on 6 April. This orientation will bring together 60 participants from the Ministries of Education, Justice and Health, NGOs, artists, photographers, and designers to support development of materials that will be used by families, early childhood education centres, health centres and communities throughout Vanuatu. Disaster risk reduction materials for children, teachers and caregivers will be an integral part of the orientation.

The Ministry of Education confirmed the need to track the movement of children within Vanuatu as parents prioritise and take action to ensure access to functional schools



¹ NDMO's estimated number of affected children is 70,000. However, the total number of children residing in the affected provinces exceeds this estimate.

² Number of children aged under 5 in five affected provinces (SOURCE: NDMO projected figures in 2013).

³ Number of children aged 6-23 months in five affected provinces (SOURCE: NDMO projected figures in 2013 & WHO Emergency tool 6.3 Ref Values, March 2012).

⁴ Number of pregnant women in five affected provinces (SOURCE: NDMO projected figures in 2013 & WHO Emergency tool 6.3 Ref Values, March 2012).

Health and Nutrition

A total of 10,865 children have now been vaccinated against measles in Shefa and Sanma Province with UNICEF support. UNICEF has worked with partners to vaccinate over 80 per cent of children aged 6 – 59 months in two of the zones on Shefa Province. Through micro-planning and team briefing in partnership with Save the Children, UNICEF has supported 11 teams of 35 nurses who will be working over a period of 7 to 10 days to vaccinate a total of 7,150 children. To date, 2,146 of the children in Sanma Province have been immunized. Micro-planning for emergency measles vaccination in Tanna has been finalized in discussion with the provincial health office. UNICEF will be working with partners to begin immunization in Tafea Province from 8 April.

UNICEF is coordinating the nutrition working group. UNICEF, in partnership with the Ministry of Health and UNFPA, supported the screening of 176 children on Efate, none of whom showed signs of severe malnutrition. In partnership with the Ministry of Health and WHO, UNICEF is supporting the development of referral pathways for children identified with severe and acute malnutrition. UNICEF has worked closely with the Government, WHO and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community to integrate measurement of mid-upper arm circumference screening at sentinel sites. Reporting mechanisms have been established for the collection of measure of mid upper-arm circumference screening data, which will enable information on severe and acute malnutrition cases to be captured. Led by UNICEF, the Nutrition Working Group has developed breastfeeding and complementary feeding flyers and talking points that will accompany food distribution.

A Maternal, Newborn and Child Health Specialist joined UNICEF as the Team Leader for the Health and Nutrition Section to increase UNICEF's coordination and management capacity with the Government and other partners.

A large standby generator for the national vaccine storage has arrived in Port Vila and is ready to be installed once contracting services are secured. The UNICEF cold chain installation contractor has been briefed on installation requirements. Some 97,570 doses of measles and rubella vaccine for the national campaign planned for August have arrived in Port Vila and are at the national vaccine storage facility. Spot-checks of the central level cold room and the UNICEF transit warehouse have been conducted to ensure quality of storage.

UNICEF has supported development of an inpatient treatment facility checklist to evaluate status of existing facilities in Penama, Tafea and Shefa Provinces. UNICEF participated in the inter-cluster assessment on Tanna with a specific focus on assessing the Lenakel Hospital.



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

To date, UNICEF has reached an estimated 7,000 people, including children, with safe water on Efate, Epi, Tanna and Emae Islands. This includes 2,300 people reached in partnership with the New Zealand Armed Forces for the past few days. The New Zealand Armed Forces have supplied water tanks and desalinated water from HMNZS Canterbury to communities on Epi reaching 1,500 people. Additional tanks for Emae have been loaded for transport on the ship *Epi Dream*, which will support 800 people.

UNICEF's coordination and logistical support to the WASH Cluster has contributed to the distribution of 3,986 hygiene kits to 20,000 people by all agencies, of which 2,000 were provided by UNICEF. An additional 6,500 hygiene kits are currently within distribution channels to various islands that will support another 32,500 people. In partnership with Oxfam, UNICEF will support distribution of further hygiene kits with associated hygiene promotion for 3,200 people including children, and affect emergency repairs to water supply systems on the islands of Ambrym, Epi and Efate. Partnership with International Medical Corps is in place for distribution of hygiene kits for 1,100 households in Ambrym with supplies enroute.

UNICEF worked with the Department of Geology, Mines and Water Resources (DGMWR) and partners within the sector to develop and agree on a common response plan that has been shared with the National Disaster Management Office. Targets for these will be refined when assessment data becomes available. With UNICEF's support, the WASH cluster has developed a distribution tracker for ongoing monitoring which has been shared with the National Disaster Management Office. This has led the way for others to follow suit.

UNICEF is supporting the WASH cluster in ongoing assessments through the use mobile phone technology. Thirteen mobile phones have been provided by UNICEF to members of the assessment team, who have been nominated by the WASH cluster to assist with the data collection process. This will allow for efficient collection of data whilst in the field and the processing of data collected. Data processing is now in progress, from which analysis will inform the response plan.

UNICEF supported the development of standardized key health and hygiene messages with the Ministry of Health and partners for use by the Health and WASH clusters.

UNICEF has supported the Government to establish a provincial WASH Cluster in Tanna on Tafea Province. The DGMWR is assisting UNICEF to have electricity restored to various sites around Efate island by the National services provider (UNELCO) to allow for withdrawal of emergency generator equipment currently supplying water to over 3,000 residents in Teaumaville and 186 students at Ulei Junior School (and 500 people in the surrounding area).



Child Protection

UNICEF has been supporting the Government to restore the birth registration system in the country. About 6,400 children across four provinces of Vanuatu affected by the Tropical Cyclone Pam will be provided with birth registration through UNICEF technical and financial support to the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Civil Registry. Some children will be provided with a replacement of their birth registration documentation, others will receive a new registration. This is planned to commence on 20 April on Tanna in Tafea Province.

To ensure the security of the document, UNICEF, in discussion with its partners, will explore the use of a waterproof document holder. The first phase will cover Tafea Province, with the second phase reaching children in Shefa Province and the third reaching Malampa and Penama Provinces. With UNICEF's support, the four provincial Civil Registry and Vital Statistics Committees will be mobilized to work with the Civil Registry to carry out these activities. Registration Forms will be sent out with the distribution of relief goods in the affected provinces.

Also, UNICEF, in partnership with the Ministry of Youth Development and Training and the Vanuatu National Youth Council, is preparing for the distribution of recreational kits in four provinces, targeting 4,500 children. The kits will be utilized to facilitate children's activities in the community.

Concerns around the lack of a functional judiciary were raised by UNICEF in the donor briefing given the implications around GBV. NDMO confirmed this to be a key priority and is exploring options to support both infrastructural and capacity challenges in reopening the courts.

Communication for Development

UNICEF supported the development of integrated communication for development messages that will be produced for broadcast and dissemination of vital information supporting cluster priorities. UNICEF is liaising with NDMO to disseminate radio messages through its onsite radio station with Radio Vanuatu. UNICEF is also discussing with Digicel Vanuatu the use of SMS messages for mass dissemination of key messages across the country. The current reach of Digicel Vanuatu is about 80 per cent to 85 per cent, as the company continues to repair towers damaged during the cyclone.

The UNICEF-supported Just Play Sports for Development Programme will be supporting community outreach activities with 40 volunteers. The volunteers are available for coverage of areas in Port Vila, Tanna and Emae and other areas through additional networks. Just Play will also be participating in briefing key messages and the Child Protection in Emergencies orientation next week. This will be followed by micro-planning for social mobilization and community outreach activities. Photographs, videos and stories from children involved with the Just Play programme in Vanuatu will be shared today.

UNICEF is working with local influencers including the Vanuatu Women's Beach Volleyball team, to strengthen the delivery of key community-facing messages.

Communication/External Relations

UNICEF has documented the provision of tents, school-in-a-box kits, recreational kits and back to school backpacks for 570 children from Melemaat School in Port Vila. Stories, interviews with children, teachers and parents, as well as photographs and videos, poems and songs relating to Cyclone Pam and the recovery have been developed by children and teachers. The content from the opening of the schools has been uploaded and is accessible on UNICEF social media and websites.

With UNICEF support, Further Arts, a youth media advocacy group, has produced and reviewed children's testimonials about the impacts of Tropical Cyclone Pam and post-cyclone priorities. The final videos will soon be shared.

The professional photographer assigned for Vanuatu will also now visit Tuvalu to photograph and document the impact in the outer islands over the coming weeks. Further communications staff support will be deployed to Vanuatu in the next few days to support the communications emergency response activities. These include ongoing support to document UNICEF's response and relief efforts in Vanuatu through photographs, videos and human interest stories. The communications team will also be supporting the development of child-friendly materials together with the education program. A photographer and a Communications Officer have been deployed to Tanna to source new content and return on 5 April.

Supply and Logistics

UNICEF continues to support the NDMO the National Logistics Coordinator in Port Vila and WFP-led logistics cluster and operations in both Port Vila and Tanna. UNICEF is offering the humanitarian stakeholders further support through a cost shared transit warehouse to facilitate breakdown of bulk imports into smaller shipments for inter-island freight forwarding.

Some 31 tonnes, of water, sanitation and hygiene, health and nutrition and education supplies valued at approximately US\$6 million have been distributed to partners to cover children's needs in islands of Vanuatu.

A hundred tonnes of water, sanitation and hygiene kits, medicines, tents and school supplies valued at US\$1.2 million will be arriving in Port Vila in the week ending 11 April. These consignments will be able to cover a majority of the remaining immediate WASH and Education needs for children in Vanuatu. In coordination with each programme, distribution plans have been finalised with counterparts and partners on the ground.

Funding

UNICEF Pacific and its field office in Vanuatu are very grateful to have received funds from: Australia; France; Japan; the United Kingdom; UNICEF National Committee for Australia; UNICEF National Committee for New Zealand; UNICEF National Committee for the United Kingdom; Japan Committee for UNICEF; the United States Fund for UNICEF; UNICEF National Committee for France and UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). These contributions have made it possible for the current response to reach the children and families who need immediate support.

| | Cluster 2015 Target | Cluster Total Results | UNICEF 2015 Target ⁵ | UNICEF Total Results |
|---|---------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------|
| NUTRITION | | | | |
| Number of targeted caregivers of children 0-23 months with access to IYCF counselling | 6,500 | Planning | 6,500 | Planning |
| Number of children 6-59 months receiving micronutrient supplementation | 12,500 | Procurement in process | 12,500 | Procurement in process |
| HEALTH | | | | |
| Number of children 6-59 months vaccinated for measles | 25,000 | 10,865 | 25,000 | 10,865 |
| Number of national cold room and cold chain equipment restored | 31 | Procurement in process | 31 | Procurement in process |
| Number of affected primary health care facilities with adequate new-born care kits and services | 60 | Planning | 25 | Planning |
| WATER, SANITATION & HYGIENE | | | | |
| Number of emergency-affected population provided with access to safe water as per agreed standards | 110,000 | 20,000 | 70,000 | 7,000 |
| Number of emergency-affected population provided with sanitation and hygiene supplies | 110,000 | 20,000 | 70,000 | 2,000 |
| Number of emergency-affected population benefiting from hygiene and sanitation promotion | 110,000 | Planning | 70,000 | Planning |
| Percentage of affected communities dependent on only one water source with back-up source identified | 70% | Planning | 70% | Planning |
| CHILD PROTECTION | | | | |
| Number of children and adolescence provided with access to safe spaces for trauma relief through psychosocial support, socialization, play and learning | 20,000 | Planning | 20,000 | Planning |
| Number of parents/caregivers provided with information on reducing psychosocial stress | 6,400 | Planning | 6,400 | Planning |
| Number of youth, girls and boys trained as peer educators on prevention of violence | 100 | Planning | 100 | Planning |
| Number of service providers trained on child protection in emergencies | 350 | Planning | 350 | Planning |
| Number of children provided with replacement birth registration documentation | 6,400 | Planning | 6,400 | Planning |
| EDUCATION | | | | |
| Number of affected preschool and primary school children with access to temporary learning spaces (TLS) | 22,000 | 2,572 | 16,000 | 2,572 |
| Number of education service providers (ECE and Primary) trained in psychosocial support and DRR messaging | To be determined | Planning | 944 | Planning |

⁵ Targets are for Vanuatu

| | | | | |
|---|------------------|----------|--------|----------|
| Number of emergency-affected children (ECE & Primary) accessing psychosocial support and DRR key messages | To be determined | Planning | 10,000 | Planning |
|---|------------------|----------|--------|----------|

Tuvalu, Solomon Islands and Kiribati

TUVALU

Early reports suggested that the impact was severe on some islands (particularly Nui and Nanumaga), largely due to the storm surge. There are an estimated 900 school-aged children on the affected islands. Funafuti, with about 4,500 people the most populous island, was comparatively unscathed by the cyclone.

Most displaced people have returned home, with only 10 families residing near the coast still in temporary accommodation. Of the 270 families on Nui island, 90 were displaced. On Nanumea island, 28 houses were damaged or destroyed, 14 families (50 people) are still in the community hall and 21 families are staying with relatives. According to NZ MFAT, Nanumaga Island initially reported that up to 60 families had arrived at evacuation centres and a further 27 had fled to other houses at the height of the cyclone. The island Health Clinic has been largely destroyed. The female ward must be rebuilt, while the children's ward just needs to be cleaned up. Medical supplies were moved to safety before the cyclone hit.

Initial rapid assessment reports from the central islands of Nui, Vaitupu, Nukufetau, Nanumaga and Nanumea indicate that life is normalising, with power returning, a low prevalence of communicable diseases, sufficient water supplies (except for those of destroyed households and clinics) and adequate current food and fuel stocks to meet immediate needs. Medium- and long-term recovery measures will become increasingly important as relief supplies reach the islands. Agricultural recovery will be particularly important because of the almost total loss of crops and extensive loss of livestock.

International assistance includes an Australian emergency technical and coordination team, OCHA staff, a UNDP recovery specialist, and WHO environmental health specialists. Seven additional FNU personnel (a midwife, two medical officers, a trauma counsellor, an intensive care nurse, a public health officer and a pharmacist) arrived to support relief operations on 26 March.

In addition to the Government accessing the national contingency budget for emergency response, and initial contributions from DFAT and MFAT, a number of important contributions have been registered, including: a pledge of euro 0.5 million from the Government of the Netherlands; AUS\$80,000 from Taiwan for the recovery effort; and US\$150,000 from the United Arab Emirates in addition to their initial contribution of US\$ 60,000. Italy has also pledged euros 100,000; and Japan has contributed US\$ 30,000 for education-related relief supplies to UNICEF to procure backpacks for children in the outer islands as part of its early recovery efforts.

UNICEF health and WASH supplies were delivered to Funafuti on 19 March. A New Zealand C130 charter flight arrived on 22 March carrying the remaining medical and shelter supplies, including an additional 2,000 ORS packs to supplement the 2,000 UNICEF had already supplied. A French Air Force aircraft from Nadi arrived on 29 March with relief and recovery supplies, including 320 kg of UNICEF school supplies. Around 70 school backpacks with stationery supplies including pens, pencils, notebooks, water bottles, and lunch boxes for approximately 80 early childhood care and education centers were procured using the Japanese Government's contribution to UNICEF.

Further release of education in emergencies supplies will depend on the collection and analysis of school-level data expected to be completed with the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports (MEYS) over the next couple of days. The remaining UNICEF education supplies will be sea freighted on April 6 from Suva. UNICEF is participating in discussion of the role of schools as evacuation centers and their preparedness for disasters with MEYS and DFAT.

SOLOMON ISLANDS

Tropical Cyclone Pam brought widespread heavy rain to most provinces in Solomon Islands. Temotu province experienced hurricane force winds as the cyclone intensified and moved out of Solomon Island territory. Some vulnerable families have been displaced and food gardens destroyed.

Accessibility to communities has been difficult or impossible due to flooding, fallen trees and very rough seas. Initial assessments confirm significant damage to houses, food gardens and fruit trees, flooding and contamination of water sources. Agriculture, fishing, health and infrastructure have all been severely affected.

The Ministry of Health and Medical Services assessment team left by sea for Temotu province on 20 March, carrying relief supplies, including UNICEF WASH supplies. The boat arrived in Temotu on 21 March and distributed relief supplies for the remote outer islands of the province. Although Anuta Island in Temotu was the worst affected, it is not heavily populated and the Government has indicated the situation there is under control. Three hundred and five jerry cans and 3,660 bars of soap have been distributed to Anuta, the Duff Islands, Utupua and Vanikoro on the NDMO patrol boat *Florence*. The boat also carried initial rapid assessment teams, and left for Temotu on 28 March.

The Initial Rapid Assessment was partially completed for the central eastern and southern divisions of Malaita. A total of 631 houses suffered partial damage and 105 were totally destroyed, while 447 kitchens were partly damaged and 16 destroyed (as reported by the provincial emergency operation centers in Malaita). Landslides and floodwater have damaged water supply pipes, storage tanks and dams. The RWSS division in Malaita is finalising a response plan.

The Solomon Islands Government has approved approximately US\$450,000 to support the emergency response. The funds cover the operations for all the affected provinces. The Government of New Zealand's initial contribution is about \$50,000 NZL dollars, and the Australian Government has covered logistical costs for response mobilization.

UNICEF is supporting the WASH cluster in responding to the impact on water and sanitation. It has provided non-food items including soap, chlorine tablets and collapsible containers for use in Temotu Province. It is also providing WASH containers and soap to WVI for use in the preparation of 305 household kits for other affected areas.

KIRIBATI

Four metre-high waves were experienced in Kiribati on 13 March (where the highest point is 3 meters above sea level), causing extensive damage to the Dai Nippon Causeway, and to many sea walls on the main atoll of Tarawa. The impact of the cyclone was strongest on the southern islands, particularly Tamana and Arorae. The disaster management committee is monitoring progress of the emergency response and assisting communities to build or strengthen sea walls with local contractors.

According to initial assessments from joint teams dispatched by the Government, in which a UNICEF staff member participated, 20 houses along the shore of the southern island of Arorae (estimated population 1,076, including 33 children aged under 5) were destroyed, and families have found temporary shelter in schools and community centers. Some have started rebuilding their houses further inland. A Government boat arrived at Arorae on 26th March from Tarawa bringing cargo, food and household relief supplies as well as government officials from Office of the President and Ministry of Public Works and Kiribati Red Cross to further assess needs. The Ministry of Health has sent extra supplies of ORS, Zinc, and essential drugs to respond to an increased number of diarrhea cases.

On the southern island of Tamana, (estimated population 857, including 72 children aged under 5), almost 60 per cent of households were affected, and 65 houses completely destroyed. The affected families are relocating inland to rebuild and are staying with other families. The Government relief boat delivered a water pump and five big tanks for water collection and distribution, shovels, wheelbarrows, electric saws, tarpaulins, mosquito nets, and household relief items. The Ministry of Health has also sent extra supply of ORS, Zinc, and essential drugs to the island.

A small amount of UNICEF emergency supplies are available from pre-positioned stocks in Tarawa, and an additional consignment arrived in Tarawa on 24 March. A UNICEF child protection officer has been deployed from Fiji to Tarawa for two weeks.

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