Funding Overview and Partnerships

UNICEF appeals for $7.7 million to support its humanitarian operations in Vanuatu, Fiji, Solomon Islands and Tonga which were devastated by TC Harold. A total of $1,639,930 have so far been received and pledged with $550,000 coming from UNICEF’s Global Thematic Humanitarian Funds; $889,930 from the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) to support WASH ($690,285) and Nutrition ($199,645) interventions in Vanuatu and an additional $200,000 committed by CERF for the WASH response in Fiji.

### Highlights

- Tropical Cyclone Harold caused widespread destruction in Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, Fiji and Tonga. The cyclone was most destructive in Vanuatu, where approximately 92,300 people, including 24,300 children, live in the worst affected areas.
- UNICEF is distributing emergency supplies such as WASH kits, integrated emergency health kits, recreational kits, school tents and school-in-a-box kits and providing support to government and other partners for critical activities in Vanuatu, Fiji and Solomon Islands.
- The Government of Vanuatu has extended the State of Emergency (SOE) to respond to TC Harold and for continuation of preventive measures against COVID-19.
- The response to the cyclone is especially challenging due to the global COVID-19 pandemic, which is hindering the movement of people and supplies.

### Situation in Numbers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country/Region</th>
<th>People Living in All Affected Areas</th>
<th>People Living in the Worst Affected Areas</th>
<th>Children Living in the Worst Affected Areas</th>
<th>People in the Worst Affected Areas Who Were Already Vulnerable</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vanuatu</td>
<td>433,000</td>
<td>110,300</td>
<td>47,500</td>
<td>9,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fiji</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Solomon Islands</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Tonga</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Funding Overview and Partnerships

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>Vanuatu Requirement</th>
<th>Solomon Is. Requirement</th>
<th>Fiji Requirement</th>
<th>Tonga Requirement</th>
<th>Total Requirement</th>
<th>Funds Committed</th>
<th>Funding Gap</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nutrition</td>
<td>378,378</td>
<td>544,698</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>7,748,255</td>
<td>1,639,930</td>
<td>6,108,325</td>
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<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td>604,692</td>
<td>115,236</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2,387,880</td>
<td>1,190,970</td>
<td>1,196,910</td>
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<tr>
<td>WASH</td>
<td>2,387,880</td>
<td>317,196</td>
<td>730,620</td>
<td>357,588</td>
<td>3,793,284</td>
<td>1,324,620</td>
<td>2,468,664</td>
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<tr>
<td>CP</td>
<td>662,904</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>59,400</td>
<td>11,880</td>
<td>734,184</td>
<td>357,588</td>
<td>376,596</td>
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<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>455,123</td>
<td>213,840</td>
<td>534,600</td>
<td>17,820</td>
<td>1,221,383</td>
<td>17,820</td>
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<tr>
<td>SP</td>
<td>356,400</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>356,400</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>356,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>4,845,377</td>
<td>1,190,970</td>
<td>1,324,620</td>
<td>387,288</td>
<td>7,748,255</td>
<td>1,639,930</td>
<td>6,108,325</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The first wave of UNICEF emergency supplies flown-in to Vanuatu were part of the stock procured as a preparedness measure through the First Action Initiative (FAI) and stored at the UNICEF allocated space in the Australian Government’s humanitarian warehouse in Brisbane. UNICEF Pacific’s preparedness strategy to pre-position emergency supplies in Australia where they could be delivered faster to Pacific Island Countries was realized through the support of the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and the FAI.

The Australian Defense Force (ADF) and Fiji Airways were instrumental in delivering emergency supplies from the Brisbane warehouse to Vanuatu and Fiji. ADF flew four times (two each to Vanuatu and Fiji) and Fiji Airways once (to Fiji) which were a big boost considering the lack of transport as all commercial flights in the Pacific are suspended.

Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

In early April 2020, Tropical Cyclone Harold caused widespread destruction in Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Fiji and Tonga. In Solomon Islands, heavy rain and strong winds damaged homes, schools and gardens across four provinces. Approximately 27 people went missing after being washed off a ferry traveling from Honiara to Malaita.

The cyclone was most destructive in Vanuatu, making landfall as a category 5 cyclone on 6 April with sustained winds of more than 200 km/h. Roads, hospitals, schools, homes and churches suffered significant damage across the northern and central islands of Maewo, Pentecost, Ambae and Santo. Approximately 92,300 people, including 24,300 children, live in the worst affected areas, representing 30 per cent of the country’s population. A joint assessment led by the Ministry of Health assessed 50 health facilities in the provinces of Sanma, Penama, and Malampa, and more than 60 per cent of which were severely damaged. Twenty of the facilities experienced damage to their cold chain equipment. Essential medicines and other equipment were also damaged. Some health personnel were injured, and some lost their homes. Some 17,000 families had damaged houses and gardens, leaving them without access to food and WASH facilities. This situation creates a highly dangerous environment for young children and poses a significant threat to child survival and well-being. An increase in communicable diseases, including diarrheal diseases, vector-borne-diseases, respiratory illnesses and skin infections, has been reported in the affected areas. The Government of Vanuatu has extended the State of Emergency for another 30 days in the light of the ongoing response to TC Harold and the need to keep its vigilance against COVID-19.

The cyclone also caused widespread flooding across Fiji as heavy rain and strong winds hit the country on 8 April. Most affected were the Eastern and Central divisions where about 2,500 houses and more than 120 schools were damaged or destroyed. Some 79 evacuation centers, housing 610 evacuees, are still operating to this date. Around 12,000 school children are facing uncertainties with schools about to resume in mid-June. After battering the eastern islands of Fiji, grazed Tonga, where an estimated 428 houses were also damaged or destroyed.

The global COVID-19 pandemic makes the response to the cyclone especially challenging. Governments in the Pacific continue to enforce strict control measures like border closures, travel restrictions and lockdowns to prevent introduction of the virus in Vanuatu and Solomon Islands and community transmission in Fiji. Even in normal times, travel and logistics across the vast Pacific region are difficult which is now compounded by the COVID-19 situation. The Government of Vanuatu has maintained that foreigners will not be allowed entry and that all humanitarian cargo will have to undergo strict health protocols before being offloaded.

Summary Analysis of Programme Response

UNICEF focuses its programme response to the worst affected areas specifically the islands of Pentecost, Santo and Ambrym in Vanuatu; the Kadavu and Lau group of islands in Fiji; parts of Honiara and Guadalcanal in Solomon Islands and some districts in Tongatapu and Eua islands in Tonga. At least 110,300 people with 47,500 children are in these worst affected areas and are in need of immediate and sustained humanitarian assistance. WASH and Education will respond to all the four countries while health and nutrition will focus in Vanuatu and Solomon Islands. Child Protection will have activities in Vanuatu, Fiji and Tonga while Social Policy is looking to support cash transfer programming in Vanuatu and Fiji.

Health and Nutrition

Vanuatu

Health services in the affected areas in Vanuatu were compromised because of the damage inflicted by TC Harold. The Ministry of Health (MOH) assessment of health facilities revealed that 32 of 50 (64%) health facilities in Sanma, Penama and Malampa provinces suffered moderate or severe structural damage, 20 (40%) had damaged medical equipment and 19 (38%) lost some or all of their medical supplies. Moreover, the same report indicated that 31 (62%) health centres in the affected areas have damaged water facilities while 12 (24%) have no functioning toilets. UNICEF
mobilized its resources to quickly address these needs while 32 Emergency Medical Teams have been mobilised by the MOH which have attended to nearly 5,000 patients so far.

- UNICEF dispatched the following supplies to Santo, Pentecost and Ambrym since the start of the emergency to ensure continuity of health and nutrition services to the 92,300 people including 24,300 children in the worst affected areas:
  - B medical health center kit with back up solar panel that provides power to the health facility and the cold chain equipment
  - 4 health kits that provides essential medical care to 4,000 people
  - 7 midwifery kits designed for 50 deliveries each;
  - 8 sterilizers and 6 bed screens for midwifery service use
  - 5 first aid kits for outreach health services
  - 6 tents for temporary clinics
  - 3 nebulizers for treatment of ARIs
  - 12 first aid kits for mobile teams
  - 11 sets of equipment to check eye and ear infections
  - 5 suction pumps for emergency operations
  - 25,500 Vitamin A capsules of pieces and 100,000 and 200,000 IU
  - 210 box of multiple micronutrient powders (each contains 30 sachets for one months use per child) for under 5 children
  - 4 weighing scales
  - 5 portable height measurement boards
  - 1250 MUAC strips for nutrition prevention and screening activities
  - 25 boxes of zinc
  - 4 boxes of 1000 sachets of ORS for treatment of diarrhea

- UNICEF co-leads the nutrition sub-cluster with the MOH, with members including World Vision, Save the Children, WAN Smol Bag WHO, representatives from the private sector and the Food Security and Agriculture cluster. The sub-cluster meets weekly to agree on interventions and geographic coverage and to provide updates on ongoing activities.

- UNICEF is supporting World Vision and Save the Children to initiate community-based nutrition interventions in affected areas.

- A local NGO theatre group Wan Smol Bag is producing audiovisual communication materials for the promotion of infant and young child feeding (IYCF) and breastfeeding.

- Together with MoH, UNICEF made quick repairs of damaged cold chain equipment in 13 health facilities in Pentecost, allowing the immunization programme to continue (the repairs are temporary; permanent fixes will be done later with replacement parts already ordered.) The quick fix of cold chain equipment in Santo province is ongoing. Re-stocking of vaccines has also been initiated.

- UNICEF has also supported MoH to develop and publish information, education and communication (IEC) materials for affected population. Funds have been provided for communication activities and the deployment of community engagement outreach teams from national and provincial levels to affected communities.

- In Ambrym, Malampa province, 268 under five years old children were given Vitamin A and 116 children aged 6-24 months were given deworming tablets and multiple micronutrients. Similar activities have been done in Sanma and Pentecost.

WASH

The cyclone damaged water systems in all four affected countries, making access to safe drinking water a key concern.

Vanuatu

- UNICEF provided technical assistance for the development of the WASH cluster response plan and provided US$80,000 to the Department of Water Resources (DoWR) for the deployment of WASH cluster teams for assessment and response. As a result, DoWR was able to immediately deploy teams of technicians, including a UNICEF WASH engineer consultant, who repaired WASH facilities in affected communities. The teams are also building hand-washing stations in Malampa, and Pentecost.

- UNICEF-funded quick fixes of water systems and material distribution benefited 11,141 people (5,648 males, 5,493 females) in 2,306 households.

- UNICEF has provided at least 2,105 people (1,050 males, 1055 females) in 443 households in 22 communities in Vanuatu with a range of WASH supplies, including dignity kits, containers, water filters, liquid chlorine and tarpaulin. Water filters and water purification tablets have been provided to MoH to ensure an immediate response to potential outbreaks of water-borne diseases. Dignity kits were handed over to the Gender and Protection cluster for distribution prioritizing persons with disabilities at evacuation center and most affected communities in Sanma and Malampa. A total of 1,706 Jerry cans and 352 Hygiene Kits have been distributed in Sanma, Penama, and Malampa 63 water filters were also installed in health care facilities. These supplies were mostly from UNICEF, but some were from other donors, but distributed with the help of DoWR staff that UNICEF supported. UNICEF bladders and support to DoWR water trucking helped over 2,294 people (1,189 males, 1,104 females) in 468 households in 8 communities.
UNICEF provided technical assistance for the development of WASH cluster recovery plan and the WASH in Healthcare Facilities response, early recovery and long-term plan.

UNICEF assisted the WASH cluster in developing key messages on safe water and hygiene which were disseminated in social media platforms like Facebook and text blasts.

Solomon Islands

The following supply items have been delivered to the UNICEF Solomon Island Field Office from the Fiji warehouse to boost its response to TC Harold:

- 160 units of buckets with lid
- 64 WASH and Dignity kits
- 30 boxes of water purification tablets, 33 mg box of 1,000
- 12 rolls of tarpaulin 4 x 50 meters

UNICEF responded immediately to a request from the National Disaster Management Office (NDMO), providing WASH and dignity kits for worst affected 60 households and 20 units of tarpaulin.

The Solomon Islands WASH sub-cluster has been activated.

Fiji

UNICEF provided WASH and dignity kits for 2,400 households through the Ministry of Health and Medical Services (MOHMS) and NDMO. Positive feedback was received from households on the usefulness of the WASH kits (data collected from five villages in the Central Division using mobile data collection). An additional 386 WASH kits were received by NDMO on 30 April.

UNICEF also procured soap, disinfectants, sprayers and hand sanitizers as requested by MOHMS that will benefit approximately 3,600 people.

Three field monitors supported by UNICEF have completed the survey of more than 5 villages and 10 households to date with specific questions to capture data from women and persons with a disability. UNICEF has leveraged connection between MHMS and Pacific Disability Forum who have started discussion on working together to reach communities through supplies, services and information and awareness.

Tonga

The WASH cluster has met to create a response plan. They have expressed the need for hygiene kits and water containers to affected households on Tongatapu and ‘Eua, prioritizing female-headed households, households with elderly people, and people with disabilities.

Education

Schools have been damaged in all four affected countries.

Vanuatu

The following supplies have been sent to affected schools in Ambrym, Santo, Malekula and Pentecost through the Ministry of Education and Training (MOET) to set up at least 20 temporary classrooms for more than 1,000 students and learning materials for more than 3,600 students and early learners:

- 40 rolls of tarpaulin, 50 m
- 8 tents, 42 sqm, to serve as temporary classrooms
- 6 tents, 72 sqm, to serve as temporary classrooms
- 52 sets school-in-a-box, provides learning materials for 40 students per set
- 40 sets, 40 Early Childhood Development kits, provides learning materials for 40 early learners per set
- 200 units buckets with lid and tap, HDPE, 14 L, for handwashing stations

UNICEF is providing technical support to the Ministry of Education and Training (MOET) to develop a standard home school learning package that will benefit more than 90,000 students.

UNICEF is also assisting the MOET in the development of key messages for parents to support the learning of children with disabilities at home.

Solomon Islands

UNICEF dispatched four tents to Western Guadalcanal to serve as temporary classrooms for some 200 students of Lambi Primary School until re-construction is completed. Most of the classrooms in the primary school were completely destroyed by TC Harold.

UNICEF stands ready for further support as detailed assessments of damage to schools are still being prepared. stands ready to support other schools resume classes as their come through
Fiji
- Technical Assistance was provided to the Ministry of Education Heritage and Arts (MEHA) in the conduct of damage and the development of the TC Harold Education Cluster Response Plan. Mobile technology was used in the data collection during the assessment.
- UNICEF is supporting the MEHA in the coordination of response activities of the Education Cluster through the 5Ws and Planning Needs Tracker (PNT).
- UNICEF is working closely with the MEHA in the provision of temporary learning spaces for about 2,200 children and learning and teaching materials for about 4,495 children and 205 teachers.

Child Protection
Vanuatu
- The following supplies were dispatched to Santo, Pentecost and Ambrym for the psychosocial support activities for children, youth, parents and caregivers.
  - 4 Tents (42m2)
  - 30 Recreational Kits
  - 18 Tarpaulins (4 x 50m)
- UNICEF supported the orientation of 25 youth volunteers on COVID-19 in preparation for their deployment to the affected provinces to provide psychosocial support and psychological first aid.
- UNICEF supported the Vanuatu Society for People with Disability (VSDP) with the recruitment of 5 staff who are assisting with TC Harold response activities in Santo. Detailed assessments were carried out by the Disability Sub-Cluster in Santo to determine the specific needs of persons with disabilities. The identified needs include those for shelter, water, food, clothing and health which were shared with responsible clusters.
- UNICEF is supporting the deployment of national and provincial (Shefa and Sanma) child protection officers from the Ministry of Justice and Community Services (MoJCS) and youth officers from the Ministry of Youth and Sports Development (MoYSD) to provide support to the Provincial Emergency Operations Centers (PEOCs) in instituting gender and protection measures in the humanitarian operations.
- UNICEF provided technical assistance in the development of the gender and protection cluster response plan for TC Harold.
- UNICEF is supporting the preparation for the in-depth child protection assessment for TC Harold planned by the Ministry of Justice and Community Services and Ministry of Youth and Sports Development. The child protection in emergencies (CPiE) toolkit and rapid assessment form were shared with Ministry of Justice and Community Services and Ministry of Youth and Sports Development prior to deployment of assessment teams to the affected provinces.
- UNICEF is also providing technical support for the development of psychosocial first aid and psychosocial support materials in response to COVID-19 and TC Harold.

Fiji
- The referral pathway guidance has been updated and the accompanying training module for community actors has been completed. A similar guidance note and training module for healthcare workers on identifying at-risk women and children have also been completed.
- UN Women and UNICEF are providing coordination support to the safety and protection cluster, which meets weekly. UNICEF has provided technical assistance to the Child Support Unit of the Ministry for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation (MWCPA) on the inclusion of child protection rapid assessment questions in cyclone assessments.
- UNICEF is providing technical support to MWCPA to conduct psychosocial support to children and families, including children with disabilities in Kadavu and Lau. UNICEF provided recreational kits for child-friendly spaces in Kadavu and Lau, benefitting 1,000 children.

Tonga
- UNICEF has shared the child protection in emergencies (CPiE) toolkit and rapid assessment form with the Ministry of Internal Affairs. UNICEF is also offering technical assistance for the development of psychological first aid and psychosocial support materials in response to the cyclone and COVID-19.
- UNICEF supported the Ministry of Internal Affairs in the development and broadcasts of TV and Radio spots that focus on messages on care and protection in the midst of TC Harold destruction and threat of COVID-19.
- UNICEF and the Ministry of Education and Training (MET) supported churches and schools in the conduct of psychosocial support and counselling services for some 2,000 students and 100 teachers in Hihifo and Kolofo‘ou districts in Tongatapu.
Humanitarian Leadership, Coordination and Strategy

UNICEF leads the clusters for WASH and education, and the sub-clusters on nutrition and child protection under the Pacific Humanitarian Team (PHT). The PHT is a network of humanitarian organizations that works together to assist Pacific Island Countries and Territories in preparing for and responding to disasters. It is composed of UN agencies and international humanitarian organizations and co-chaired by the UN Resident Coordinators and the head of OCHA. UNICEF and the PHT support the leadership of governments and work within their respective political structures. Vanuatu, Fiji and Tonga have officially adopted the cluster approach in their humanitarian architecture, while Solomon Islands has a similar configuration through their sector committees. Unlike cluster systems in other countries, these mechanisms are active year-round and are the coordinating bodies not just for emergency response but also for disaster risk management and preparedness.

Next Situation Report: 22 May 2020
UNICEF Pacific: https://www.unicef.org/pacificislands/

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