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# Timor-Leste

## Humanitarian Situation Report No. 1

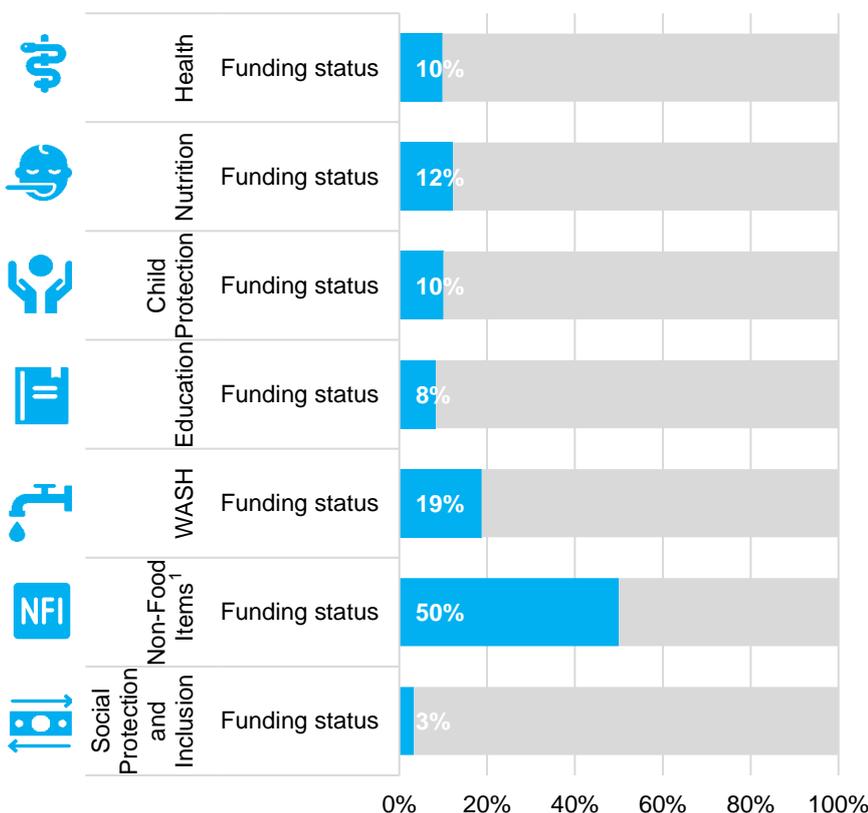


Reporting Period: 5 April to 16 April 2021

### Highlights

- Heavy rains across the country from 29 March to 4 April 2021 resulted in flash floods and landslides affecting all 13 municipalities in Timor-Leste to varying degrees, with the capital Dili and the surrounding low-lying areas the worst affected.
- The flooding and landslides have caused 45 fatalities and affected 25,709 households across the country. Of those, 47% - or 12,054 households - are in Dili municipality. The Secretariat of State for Civil Protection estimates that there are currently 8,852 temporarily displaced persons, or 1,247 households, in 31 evacuation facilities across Dili.
- UNICEF provided immediate assistance thanks to pre-positioned relief supplies. With logistical support from WFP, UNICEF provided over 8,000 units of non-food items (mats, blankets, tarpaulin, house cleaning kits, PPE, etc.) to evacuation sites, residential care institutions and affected communities, benefiting over 10,000 people. UNICEF has established 11 child friendly spaces, as well as nutrition and health monitoring spaces in evacuation centres.

### UNICEF's Funding Status



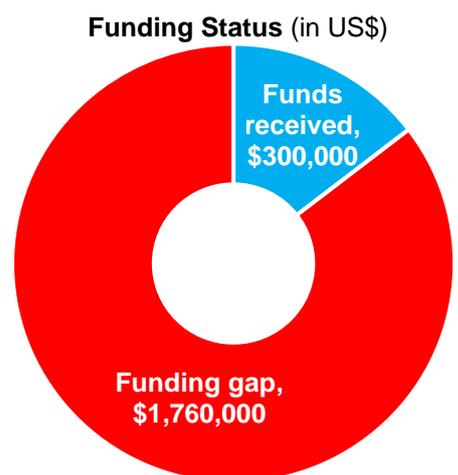
<sup>1</sup>NFI are distributed through multiple sectors

### Situation in Numbers

- 1,434** Under 5 children living in temporary shelters in Dili
- 25,709** Total affected households across country
- 4,546** Houses destroyed or damaged across country
- 8,885** Internally displaced people (IDPs) in Dili
- 45** Fatalities

### UNICEF Floods Appeal

#### US\$ 2.06 million



## Funding Overview and Partnerships

UNICEF appeals for US\$ 2,060,000 to sustain provision of life-saving and immediate essential services for women and children in Timor-Leste. UNICEF has been able to respond rapidly thanks to US\$ 100,000 in pre-positioned supplies funded by Denmark and the United Kingdom, and by repurposing US\$ 200,000 from regular resources to meet the immediate response needs. A US\$ 100,000 grant was received from the UNICEF Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific. However, more resources are urgently needed to respond to humanitarian needs in the different sectors and throughout the country.

## Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

Heavy rains across the country from 29 March to 4 April resulted in flash floods and landslides affecting all 13 municipalities in Timor-Leste to varying degrees, with the capital Dili and the surrounding low-lying areas the worst affected.

The latest official figures indicate a total of 31 evacuation facilities in Dili municipality, where 8,852 people – or 1,247 households – are temporarily sheltered. Sustained essential services are needed in the evacuation sites. Moreover, many people are starting to return home, and there is a need to provide support to affected communities with essential items, as well as ensure that essential services are re-established in these communities.

There is a critical need for access to clean water and improved sanitation and hygiene. With cases of diarrhea starting to be reported in the evacuation facilities, and given the impact of temporary displacement on food and nutrition security, providing mobile health and nutrition services and establishing a referral system for severe/critical cases of malnutrition is a key priority. There is also an immediate need to address the psychosocial and learning needs of affected children and adolescents, and provide learning materials and WASH materials to schools affected by the flood.

The floods took place in the context of rising COVID-19 cases in Timor-Leste. In view of the ongoing flood response, on 9 April the Government temporarily suspended the strict lockdown in Dili municipality. As of 16 April, there were 560 active cases of COVID-19. The risk of further spread of COVID-19 remains high.

## Summary Analysis of Programme Response

### WASH

UNICEF is facilitating the coordination of partners in the WASH sector, and has played a key role in WASH assessments. There is an immediate need for clean water to the affected population, both in displacement sites and communities. Improved sanitation and hygiene is critical, ensuring displaced families have access to proper toilet facilities and sensitization on good hygiene practices. UNICEF improved hygiene by installing 10 mobile toilets in six major evacuation centres and provided seven water tanks to evacuation sites and affected communities (out of 31 water tanks installed by WASH sector partners). It is also supporting national authorities with the filling of water tanks. UNICEF also relocated existing hand washing stations to an evacuation centre, and moved some of the portable toilets to affected communities as some of the evacuation sites closed.

### Health

According to initial assessments conducted with UNICEF's support, temporary shelters host 1,434 under five children, and 142 pregnant women. Prevention of water-borne diseases, vector-borne diseases (in particular dengue) and skin diseases is a key priority, particularly for these two groups. There is also an urgent need to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in evacuation facilities and amongst other temporarily displaced people. The situation is complicated by the loss of medicine, medical supplies and personal protective equipment (PPE) due to the floods. In response, UNICEF provided three tents and rental cars for the Ministry of Health to set up health mobile clinics. UNICEF also provided interim power to the cold room of the National Medical Store (SAMES), which stores vaccines and had been affected by the floods.

### Nutrition

The priority needs in the nutrition sector are to provide access to quality curative services through the most appropriate modalities, systematic identification, referral, and treatment of acutely malnourished cases in collaboration with the Health sector. Strengthening the quality and scale of preventative nutrition interventions is of equal importance. UNICEF, together with WHO, supported the Nutrition Department and Dili Municipality Health Service to conduct nutrition screening for 270 under-five children in three evacuation centres. UNICEF also distributed nutrition supplies and essential cooking items to 13 evacuation sites. In partnership with WHO, UNICEF supported the establishment of an infant and young child feeding corner in eight evacuation centres to promote, protect, and support infant and young child



Source: Gov't. of Timor-Leste  
The boundaries and names shown on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Map created by UNOCHA

feeding (IYCF) practices. Moreover, as there is a concern over private donations of bottles and breastmilk substitute, UNICEF supported the Ministry of Health (MoH) to monitor the distribution of breastmilk substitutes in the evacuation facilities and take necessary actions including onsite counselling.

## Child Protection

Children in evacuation sites and affected communities face various child protection risks, in addition to trauma induced by the floods. UNICEF rapidly established child friendly spaces (CFS) in 11 evacuation sites, in partnership with the Ministry of Social Solidarity and Inclusion (MSSI) and several CSOs, with the setting up of spaces, provision of recreational and early childhood development kits and other materials, and provision of two-day-training for 58 volunteers from various CSOs and youth groups. In the first week of activities, more than 700 children benefited from CFS, which is expected to serve 1,600 children once fully operationalized. Additionally, UNICEF has supported the MoH to re-start the national hotline for mental health, with a series of trainings for the hotline being conducted. UNICEF has also provided non-food items and recreational material to several evacuations centers and social solidarity institutions.

## Education

In the education sector, there is an immediate need to address the psychosocial and learning needs of affected children. It is also necessary to provide learning materials and WASH materials to schools affected by the flooding, and in the longer term, to reconstruct and renovate affected schools. A total of 35 (TBC) schools across the country have been affected, of which 16 have been severely damaged and 11 schools moderately damaged. Eight schools need cleaning up as they were flooded. Six schools in Dili and the Teacher Training Institute (Infordepe) are currently being used as evacuation centres. UNICEF has mobilized 17 volunteers from the National University of Timor-Leste to support learning activities at evacuation centres. An additional 30 volunteers have been mobilized to initiate learning activities in the CFS, using materials already available from different organizations.

## Social Protection and Inclusion

Recognizing the great potential of adolescents and youth to contribute to the response, UNICEF provided cleaning kits, masks and hand sanitizers to the Secretariat of State of Youth and Sports and the youth CSO Alumni Association of Youth Parliament (APFTL), which mobilized large numbers of adolescents and youth to clean the streets and support families to clean their houses. The youth have also supported the various assessments underway, by reporting on the needs they witnessed in the communities (area without drinking water, etc.). UNICEF also provided supplies (hygiene items, clothes, toys) to APFTL to help at least 100 vulnerable families in communities affected by the flood. Non-food items were also handed out to organizations of persons with disabilities (OPDs), to enable them to clean their offices, and to further distribute supplies to 150 families of persons with disabilities.

## Humanitarian Leadership, Coordination and Strategy

On 8 April, the Government declared a state of calamity in Dili for a period of 30 days and requested for international assistance. The operational coordination of the flood response is led by the Secretariat of State for Civil Protection, which holds daily operational coordination meetings. Humanitarian coordination is organized by sectors led by line ministries with UN agencies as co-leads. UNICEF co-leads the WASH, nutrition and education sectors and the child protection sub-group within the gender and protection sector. It also plays an active role in the health sector. As such, UNICEF staff are playing a key role in various needs assessments currently underway, as well as in ensuring information sharing, coordination and advocacy.

## Human Interest Stories and External Media

UNICEF Timor-Leste Facebook post: <https://fb.watch/4UWU8LTJY7/>

UNICEF and MSSI established child friendly spaces:

<https://www.facebook.com/uniceftimorleste/photos/pcb.2872409876350242/2872403339684229/>

Children speak to UNICEF representative:

<https://www.facebook.com/uniceftimorleste/photos/pcb.2874467049477858/2874466699477893/>

UNICEF is taking part in a multi-sectoral assessment led by the office Secretary of State for Civil Protection:

<https://www.facebook.com/uniceftimorleste/photos/pcb.2874363429488220/2874362799488283/>

One week from cyclone: <https://www.unicef.org/timorleste/stories/one-week-cyclone-timor-leste?fbclid=IwAR27ijmneb8H8nmNXLJ5nHkbUVjPv7eyFX0um5ys6PRBiMhSgw27vjUARe>

## Next SitRep: 23 April 2021

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