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Timor-Leste

Humanitarian Situation Report No. 2



Reporting Period: 17 April to 21 April 2021

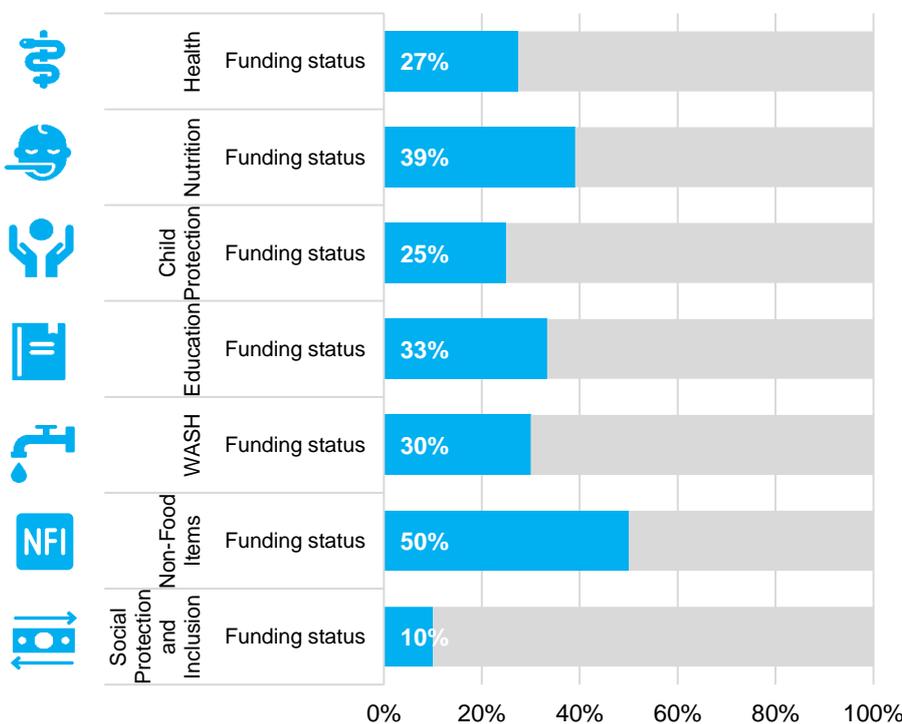
Highlights

- 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 41 fatalities and affected 28,734 households across the country. Of those, 90% - or 25,881 households - are in Dili municipality. The Secretariat of State for Civil Protection estimates that there are still 6,029 temporarily displaced persons in 30 evacuation facilities across Dili.
- UNICEF has expanded the child-friendly spaces to 13 evacuation centres, with 900 children benefitting from activities designed for psychosocial support so far. UNICEF also initiated learning activities for pre-school and basic education age children in 8 evacuation centres. UNICEF and partners also supported the government to establish infant and young child feeding (IYCF) corners in 5 additional evacuation centres bringing the total to 13 evacuation centres that promote IYCF practices.

Situation in Numbers

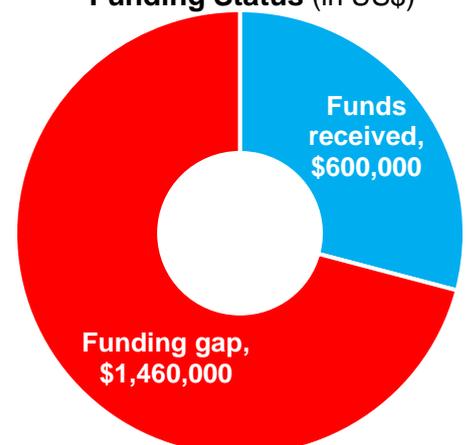
- 1,434** Under 5 children living in temporary shelters in Dili
- 28,734** Total affected households across country
- 4,546** Houses destroyed or damaged in country
- 6,029** Internally displaced people (IDPs) in Dili
- 41** Fatalities¹

UNICEF's Funding Status



UNICEF floods appeal US\$ 2.06 million

Funding Status (in US\$)



¹ The official fatality figures have been reduced by the government since the last situation report

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 regular resources to meet the immediate response needs. The Government of New Zealand provided US\$ 400,000 for the flood response and continued efforts to combat COVID-19, along with supplies and equipment for immediate response to the needs of women and children, especially related to water and sanitation. 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.

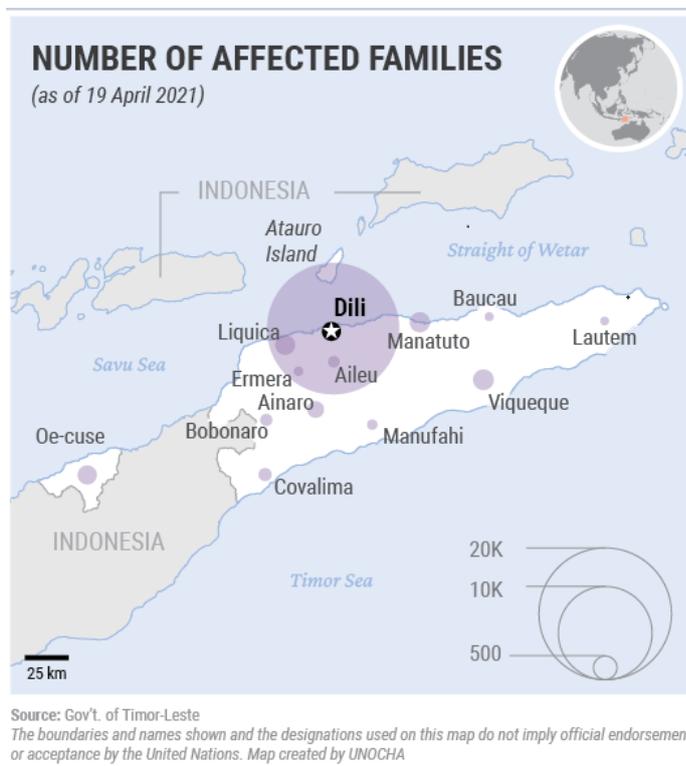
Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

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

The latest official figures indicate a total of 30 evacuation facilities in Dili municipality, where 6,029 people – or 1,194 households – are temporarily sheltered. This is 2,823 people less compared to the last reporting period, as people have started to return home. There is thus a need for both sustained essential services in the evacuation sites, and for assistance to affected communities, including critical food and non-food items, and ensuring that essential services and support are re-established in these communities.

There is a critical need for expanded access to clean and safe 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 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 floods.

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 21 April, there are 749 active cases of COVID-19. The risk of further spread of COVID-19 remains high.



Summary Analysis of Programme Response

Non-Food Items

UNICEF provided immediate assistance thanks to pre-positioned relief supplies. With logistical support from the World Food Programme, UNICEF provided over 10,000 units of non-food items including 1,155 cleaning kits, 1,770 plastic mats, 1,913 blankets, 123 tarpaulins, 29 folding tables, 12 folding chairs, 20 neck pillows, 24 gazebos, 12 camping tents, as well as hygiene products for children and women, cooking utensils, and toys to evacuation sites, residential care institutions and affected communities, benefiting close to 20,000 people.

WASH

UNICEF has been facilitating the coordination of partners in the WASH sector and has played a key role in WASH assessments. UNICEF conducted Water, Sanitation and Environmental assessments in 10 schools that have been used as evacuation centres in Dili. One of these has no electricity nor toilets, and some schools do not have a water supply system. More broadly, there is an immediate need for clean water, improved sanitation and hygiene promotion for the affected population, both in displacement sites and communities. A key priority for UNICEF is to bring clean water to communities whose water supply was cut off by a flooded lake, and a floating raft is being constructed to bring them a bladder tank.

Health

UNICEF contributed to initial assessments in Dili, which identified 1,434 under five children and 142 pregnant women in temporary shelters, and provided technical support to assess critical needs of children and pregnant and lactating women (PLW) in other flood affected municipalities (except Ainaro), which provided updates through phone or social media. Prevention of water-borne diseases, vector-borne diseases (in particular dengue) and skin diseases is a key

priority. 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 continued its operational support to the Ministry of Health for mobile health teams to provide health care in evacuation centres. UNICEF also coordinated with UNFPA to finalize the distribution plan of safe mother kits (essential items for mothers, including sanitary items) in the temporary sites.

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, in partnership with Aloia Foundation, provided an orientation and deployed 24 mother support group (MSG) members to 12 evacuation centres to conduct severe acute malnutrition (SAM) screening, referral and follow-up, and to promote counselling and



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promotion of optimal infant and young child feeding (IYCF) practices. The MSG members screened 236 children in 7 evacuation centres; 4 children suffering from SAM have started treatment. UNICEF, with the European Union and other partners also supported the Ministry of Health (MoH) to establish IYCF corners in 5 additional evacuation centres, bringing the total to 13 evacuation centres that promote, protect and support IYCF practices. Moreover, as there is a concern over private donations of bottles and breastmilk substitute, UNICEF continued to support MoH to monitor adherence to the statement on appropriate support for IYCF in the evacuation centres.

Child Protection

Children in evacuation sites and affected communities face various child protection risks, in addition to distress induced by the floods. UNICEF has expanded child-friendly spaces (CFS) to 13 evacuation sites, in partnership with the Ministry of Social Solidarity and Inclusion (MSSI), Commission on the Rights of the Child, and several CSOs. As of 21 April, more than 900 children benefited from activities designed for psychosocial support in the CFS – 200 children more than the previous week. The CFS volunteers received a second round of training on CFS activities conducted by UNICEF, which will continue on a weekly basis. More CSOs have expressed interest in joining the CFS initiative, thus additional CFS may be open. Moreover, UNICEF and MSSI coordinated relevant organizations to establish a Specialized Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Task Force, in order to bring specialized services to evacuation sites and affected communities.

Education

UNICEF is supporting the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports (MoEYS) to coordinate the education sector response to the flooding. Thirty-five schools across the country have been affected, including 16 that have been severely damaged. In Dili, seven schools and the Teacher Training Institute (Infordepe) are being used as evacuation centres. 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. UNICEF with MoEYS and other partners mobilized and trained 50 volunteers from the National University of Timor-Leste and schools in Dili, who have started providing structured learning activities to children in 8 evacuation centres three days a week.

Social Protection and Inclusion

The UNICEF-supported Youth Action Posku set up by the Secretariat of State of Youth and Sports, the Alumni Association of Youth Parliament (APFTL) and other youth organizations continued to operate, with youth volunteers helping vulnerable families in Dili to clean their house, and distributing non-food items to 125 families. Moreover, preparations are underway to provide life-skills based education (LSBE) to adolescents in 12 evacuation centres. Twenty-six youth from APFTL and the Youth Parliament, who will facilitate and supervise the LSBE training, received a briefing on prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA), referral of adolescents who need specialized services, and prevention of COVID-19. Items needed for the LSBE training were delivered. UNICEF is also coordinating with

organizations of persons with disabilities (OPDs) for further support, after providing non-food items, with a focus on equipment for these organization to carry out community sensitization on disability issues.

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

New Zealand provides USD400,000 to UNICEF to support emergency response:

<https://www.unicef.org/timorleste/press-releases/new-zealand-provides-usd-400000-unicef-support-emergency-response?fbclid=IwAR1OqAe4S5HQCA76IT8o-e0SnZTjbpCRr8u70egI769x6T3Syi06o-KMHbs>

Launch of learning activities for children in evacuation centres:

<https://www.facebook.com/1644712099120032/posts/2876901772567719/?d=n>

The nutritious food was provided to children under 5:

[https://www.facebook.com/uniceftimorleste/posts/2877631585828071?_cft_\[0\]=AZWNDE3_3NlbWlhXWyQ0zarTGUmTvUmrIJ3fOJndfGmM9Wax5N0nhjq8Y7hmHzlFpzPGfWrSNtrghWldVLbb_IJckGaoEEZSKwVBAFTd-I9J3Sb0eV5bg0FRjUtMezRGOqoZciqFDLrwxMdaJpekzG4&_tn_=%2CP-R](https://www.facebook.com/uniceftimorleste/posts/2877631585828071?_cft_[0]=AZWNDE3_3NlbWlhXWyQ0zarTGUmTvUmrIJ3fOJndfGmM9Wax5N0nhjq8Y7hmHzlFpzPGfWrSNtrghWldVLbb_IJckGaoEEZSKwVBAFTd-I9J3Sb0eV5bg0FRjUtMezRGOqoZciqFDLrwxMdaJpekzG4&_tn_=%2CP-R)



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Next SitRep: 28 April 2021

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