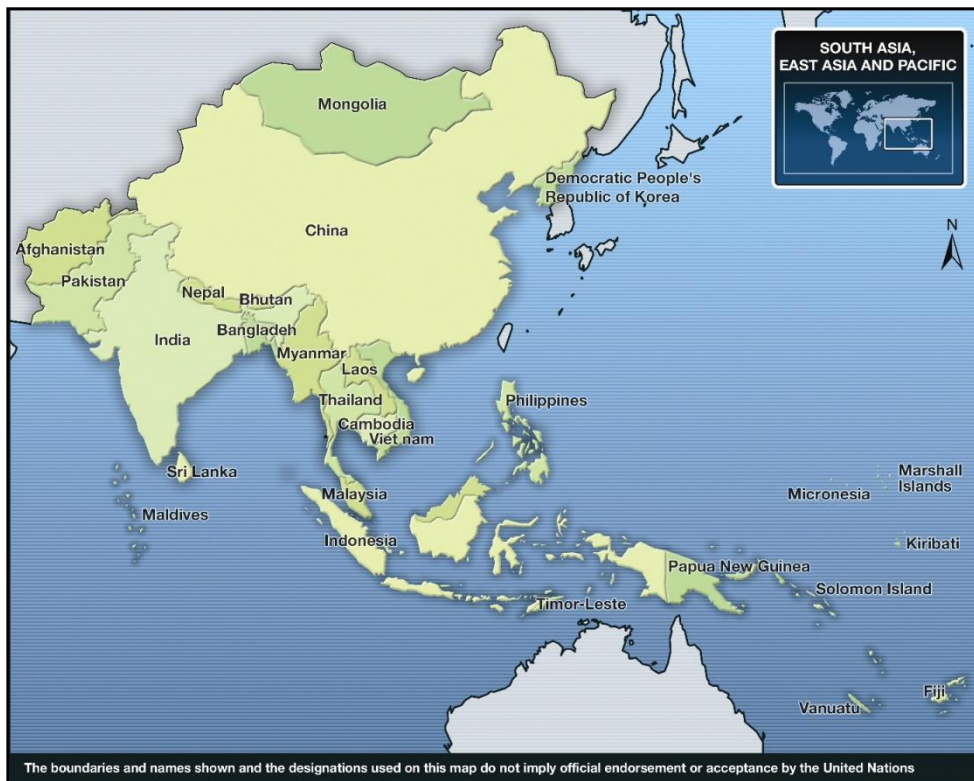


UNICEF Humanitarian Action 2010

ASIA-PACIFIC



SITUATION UPDATE

The Asia Pacific region emergency profile is characterised by a combination of natural disasters, conflicts and the particularity of the continued humanitarian situation in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. During the first six months of 2010, the situations in conflict/war-torn Afghanistan and Pakistan seriously deteriorated. Threats and direct attacks against schools, teachers, students and health centres in Afghanistan are on the rise, increasing the number of displaced to over 320,000 persons. In Pakistan, military operations expanded, bringing the number of displaced up to almost 1.4 million people. Although the situation has somewhat improved in Sri Lanka, some 59,000 IDPs are still accommodated in temporary camps. There are still concerns about more than 100,000 people, half of whom are children,¹ who remain displaced in Mindanao, Philippines as a result of the armed conflict. In parallel, Pakistan and Sri Lanka have seen the number of returnees increase. In light of these volatile situations there is a need to simultaneously respond with preparedness, care and maintenance, return, early recovery, reconstruction and development.

Also of importance in the past six months are natural disasters which struck the region and have been destructive to 1.3 million children and women's lives, including floods in Afghanistan, Myanmar, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and cyclone Thomas in Fiji. In Mongolia, the Dzud (summer drought followed by heavy snowfalls and low temperatures in the winter and then dangerous spring thaw) resulted in increased maternal and child mortality, and an unprecedented loss of livestock as well as the collapse of thousands of peoples' livelihoods and many basic services. Fifteen of Mongolia's 21 provinces, home to 769,106 people (28 per cent of the country's population), were declared disaster zones, and another four are seriously affected. The April earthquake in Yushu County in China resulted in 2,500 deaths, over 12,500 injuries, and some 100,000 people homeless due to collapsed houses. In addition to these natural threats, Asia-Pacific is also affected by global threats such as the consequences of high food and fuel prices and the threat of pandemic influenza, in addition to the threats of endemic diseases and the resurgence of polio seen in both Afghanistan and Pakistan.

¹ OCHA Situation Report 11 June 2010.

KEY RESULTS FOR CHILDREN

Since the beginning of 2010, the Asia and Pacific Shared Services Centre (APSSC) conducted over 24 missions in emergency preparedness and response activities in line with the revised Core Commitments, most of them including capacity building for country offices staff and partners in the four UNICEF-led clusters.

As planned, mapping exercises for Child Protection, Education and Nutrition were completed. Surge capacity was provided to Fiji in the aftermath of cyclone Thomas. In view of the yearly monsoon, cyclone and typhoon season, APSSC maintained regular support to country offices, ensuring that effective preparedness and response activities were planned. APSSC has been active in Disaster Risk Reduction strategy, including the Emergency unit with technical capacity in terms of early warning and emergency preparedness issues, which is one of the main pillars of disaster risk reduction.

As part of its support to country offices, the APSSC emergency unit strengthened UNICEF emergency preparedness and response activities in Afghanistan, Cambodia, Fiji, Lao DPR, Myanmar and the Philippines and revised / updated their emergency preparedness and response in line with the revised Core Commitments for Children. Prior to the yearly monsoon and cyclone season, APSSC established and maintained regular dialogue with country offices, ensuring effective management of planned preparedness activities, particularly in Cambodia, China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Indonesia, Fiji, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines and Vietnam. APSSC further contributed to the internal discussion on the Harmonized Emergency Risk Management Initiative (HERMI) which aims at streamlining the various emergency and crisis planning processes.

Nutrition: The Nutrition Cluster capacity mapping exercise resulted in the creation of a surge capacity roster. Nutrition in Emergency (NiE) trainings were held in several countries, as well as trainings related to treatment of Severe Acute malnutrition (SAM) - Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition and Inpatient management of SAM. These trainings helped strengthen staff capacity at the country office level.

WASH: As planned, APSSC focused its efforts on the preparedness of country offices and partners via the WASH Cluster Coordination trainings at the sub-national level and introduced training modules in local languages, which strengthened capacity building. National WASH coordination trainings were held in three countries, while an introduction to the WASH Cluster was given to the Government and partners in Bhutan.

Education: APSSC strengthened country office capacities to create safe learning environments in emergencies, such after the earthquake in China and Pakistan. In collaboration with Save the Children and the regional Education Cluster, APSSC held two Education Cluster Coordinator training workshops and provided on-site and distance technical assistance.

Child Protection: APSSC trained Lao PDR staff on key elements of Child Protection in Emergencies (CPIE) and implications of the cluster approach, while supporting capacity building of UNICEF partners and government counterparts in CPIE preparedness and response before the start of the rainy season.

KEY CHALLENGES

Although APSSC is continually working on providing predictable support to the 22 country offices it covers, there are some key challenges that the unit faces. First, the lack of a full-time dedicated officer on Child Protection in Emergencies, poses a significant obstacle in providing support to the region in terms of cluster leadership (including gender-based violence), which UNICEF is accountable for under the cluster approach and the newly-revised Core Commitments to Children. It also impedes on reporting on grave violations on children to the United Nations Security Council's Resolution 1612 and 1882. In Nutrition in Emergencies, APSSC will have to develop a regional strategy for the scale up of management of acute malnutrition, including a support to countries for Local production of RUTF. Feasibility and technical studies are needed and will be decisive prior to start local production in given countries. Gaps also exist in terms of technical support in non-cluster areas (Health, HIV/AIDS and operations).

INTER-AGENCY COLLABORATION

APSSC continued to work in close collaboration with the Global Clusters in order to strengthen capacities of staff and partners in the four areas where UNICEF has cluster responsibility. It reinforced inter-agency partnerships in the regional IASC network, organised cluster-specific regional workshops and participated in global and regional networks in the four clusters. Following the typhoon Ketsana response of 2009, the WASH Cluster contributed to the inter-Cluster lessons learned exercises in Lao PDR and Vietnam.

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

To date, the Asia-Pacific regional office has received \$767,956 or 40 per cent of HAR requirements. Out of this, USD\$394,764 have been allocated to Bhutan, Indonesia, and Pacific Island countries.

Funds received against the HAR 2010 (US\$)				
Sector	Original 2010 HAR requirements	Revised HAR requirements	Funds received	Funding gap
Emergency preparedness and response	400,000	400,000	0	400,000
Support for capacity building in cluster areas	1,500,00	1,500,000	373,192	1,126,808
Nutrition	300,000	300,000		
Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	300,000	300,000		
Education	400,000	400,000		
Child Protection	500,000	500,000		
Thematic: Bhutan, Indonesia, Pacific Island countries	-	-	394,764	0
Total*	1,900,000	1,900,000	767,956	1,532,044

*The total includes a maximum recovery rate of 7%. The actual recovery rate on contributions will be calculated in accordance with UNICEF Executive Board Decision 2006/7 dated 9 June 2006.

EMERGENCY PROGRAMME PRIORITIES: JULY – DECEMBER 2010

APSSC will continue to emphasise improved emergency preparedness and response, the development of new cluster tools, the creation of pool national coordinators, and the strengthening of sector-specific risk reduction. APSSC will introduce a new activity, a multi-cluster coordinators training which will harmonise messages UNICEF is delivering on the four clusters, and strengthen staff capacities in coordinating cluster activities with a multi-cluster perspective.

Emergency Preparedness and Response: The APSSC Emergency Section will continue to provide technical support to country offices to review and/or update emergency preparedness and response (through trainings, workshops and simulation exercises). Direct support to country offices will continue to be provided on the onset of an emergency to ensure a coordinated and results-based response. In addition to engaging with HQ in defining a set of key indicators for assessing performance against the revised CCCs, APSSC will be involved in supporting their implementation.

Support for Capacity Building in Cluster Areas: Working with partners, a combination of support for emergency preparedness and response through UNICEF's increasingly recognised cluster responsibilities will be provided to country offices.

Nutrition: Staff capacity at the country office level will be strengthened in community-based management of acute malnutrition, cluster coordination and nutrition survey methods. As a part of this effort, APSSC will organise workshops on Nutrition in Emergency for UNICEF staff and Cluster members in selected countries on Nutrition information management system in emergencies for CO nutrition staff, but also for other UN agencies, including OCHA, Communication Officers, Cluster members and government counterparts. Additionally, support missions to identify potential partners and training with regards to emergency preparedness will be conducted.

WASH: Working with partners, WASH Emergency trainings in local languages will continue to be provided, while working on preparedness actions with country offices to provide rapid access to safe water and sanitation during emergencies, participating in Inter-Cluster Support Missions, as well as creating links with early recovery.

Education: In collaboration with Save the Children and the Regional Education Cluster, APSSC will continue to strengthen country offices and partner agency capacities to ensure that safe learning environments in emergencies are created and that children have access to them. Capacity-building will be provided through APSSC's Frontline Responders trainings in eight countries, which will be accompanied by extensive education in emergencies trainings.