Highlight

Heavy rains in mid-August 2017 caused significant flooding in the Terai region (southern plain areas of Nepal) and several landslides in the Hill areas. 161 people (25 of them children) lost their lives and 46 were injured. A total of 29 people are still missing. The floods displaced 21,391 families, and 41,893 homes in 26 districts were totally damaged.1

The flood and inundation caused heavy loss in housing, health, education, agriculture, livestock, irrigation, transport, water and sanitation and energy sectors, and the total cost for recovery is estimated to be US$697 million according to the government’s Post Flood Recovery Needs Assessment.

- UNICEF supplies in WASH, Education, Health, and Child Protection worth more than US$562,082 have been dispatched to the 19 affected districts. So far, supplies have reached 55,000 families (368,272 people including 179,521 children).
- There is still a funding gap of $10.5 million. Additional funds are required for the treatment of 15,000 severe acute malnutrition (SAM) cases and nearly 400,000 people are yet to be reached for their WASH needs.
- Of the 10,257 children aged 6 to 59 months screened for malnutrition, 6 per cent were identified with SAM and 17.1 per cent with moderate acute malnutrition (MAM). SAM treatment is currently ongoing for 2,800 children aged 6 to 59 months.
- Loss of civil documentation (birth registration, citizenship documents, land certificates, etc.) poses an obstacle to access essential services and compensation.

UNICEF’s Response with Partners

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>As of November 2017</th>
<th>UNICEF</th>
<th>Sector/Cluster</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Target</td>
<td>Total Results*</td>
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<td>Nutrition : Treatment of SAM cases</td>
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<td>C4D : People receiving critical lifesaving messages</td>
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<td>400,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Social Policy : vulnerable people receiving emergency cash transfer</td>
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</table>

1 Ministry of Home Affairs, MOHA
Situation Overview and Humanitarian Needs

The three-day incessant rainfall in the second week of August 2017 caused significant floods in the Terai region and several landslides in the Hill areas, impacting lives, livelihoods and infrastructure in 36 of the country’s 75 districts. According to the Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA), 161 people (51 female and 110 male) died. Of these, 25 children (16 of them boys) died in 10 flood-affected districts. A total of 41,893 homes were totally damaged and a further 158,758 were partially damaged. So far, 21,391 families (102,524 people) have been displaced due to floods and landslides. Flooding and inundation caused widespread destruction of crops, livestock and fishery, which could further compromise food security in the Terai. Nepal Food Security Monitoring System (NeKSAP) estimated US$97 million worth of loss of livestock and its products; US$26 million of fishery, and US$15 million of crops and agricultural produce. Initial rapid nutrition screening in 18 districts (9,000 children) revealed a Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) rate of 23.1 per cent – well above the 'critical' level (15 per cent and above) defined by WHO for emergency situation. UNICEF and partners have been responding to provide supplementary feeding to children (6 to 23 months), pregnant and lactating women in 13 flood-affected districts, and also treating children with severe acute malnutrition (SAM) in 11 nutrition rehabilitation homes in seven flood-affected districts. Five additional districts are now being added to provide treatment for children with SAM.

Flood waters also destroyed US$9.5 million worth of water supply schemes and around US$2 million sanitation facilities. UNICEF and partners continue to rehabilitate water supply systems and sanitation facilities and promote hygiene behaviour, and have distributed life-saving WASH supplies to 404,837 people, but they have yet to reach nearly 400,000 more affected people. Education of nearly 240,000 students in 37 districts had been disrupted due to floods, and many of the schools had turned into shelters. A total of 28 school buildings were damaged, and 205 classrooms collapsed and another 707 classrooms were partially damaged. Similarly 610 toilets in schools have been damaged, 83 of them fully damaged. Although education was resumed in these schools, teaching and learning process has again faced disruption due to local elections. Schools remain closed during elections as many of them are used as polling booths and most teachers are deployed as polling officers. The same situation will be repeated in November during the provincial and parliamentary elections. Health services, which also suffered a setback with partial damage to nearly 100 health facilities has picked up. Over 40,000 children aged 9 to 23 months received measles and rubella (MR) vaccine in September, and about 30,000 pregnant women and over 313,000 children will be vaccinated by the end of the year. The National Planning Commission (NPC) has conducted a Post Flood Recovery Need Assessment whose report is set to be published in the latter half of November. According to its draft, the total cost for recovery is estimated to be US$697 million. As per the decision of the Central Natural Disaster Relief Committee (CNDRC), the government has formed a Task Force to develop a prototype of flood- and fire-resistant homes. The government has been disbursing NRs 70 (equivalent to US$0.68) per person per day to families whose houses have been destroyed. MoHA has so far released NRs 98.5 million (approximately US$945,000) to the 27 affected districts through District Administration Offices.
### Humanitarian Leadership and Coordination

- At the national level, the MoHA is coordinating humanitarian assistance in the country. Sector-based Humanitarian Clusters led by the concerned government ministries were fully activated at both the national and sub-national levels with the concerned UN agencies and the International Federation of Red Cross (IFRC) as co-leads.
- UNICEF is the co-lead for WASH, Education and Nutrition Clusters and Child Protection Area of Responsibility and an active member of the Health Cluster.
- UNICEF is also an active member of two working groups, i.e. the Community Engagement Working Group and the Cash Coordinating Group. The groups have been coordinating response- and recovery-related activities.

### Humanitarian Strategy

To address the immediate needs of the flood-affected communities, the UN Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) issued a Joint Response Plan (JRP) covering a period of six months to meet the ongoing response and recovery needs of the affected communities. This Humanitarian Action for Children (HAC) is fully aligned to the JRP, and UNICEF is working closely with the government and partners to provide affected populations with access to safe drinking water and sanitation; health and nutritional services; education services; protection services including psychosocial assistance. The HCT meeting held on 11 October 2017 agreed to conduct cluster-level after-action review of the flood response and share the outcome in the next meeting by cluster co-leads.

To facilitate access to essential services in the flood-affected districts, UNICEF has been using its existing three field offices in Biratnagar, Bharatpur and Nepalgunj Municipalities all located in Terai first to launch immediate relief efforts and then to continue to scale up existing activities and simultaneously support recovery activities. These offices have been coordinating with the District Disaster Relief Committees (DDRCs) and also supporting the organization of cluster meetings in the flood-affected districts. Staff have been deployed to 16 affected districts for coordination of relief efforts and UNICEF programme response. Based on the need and request from the government, UNICEF has been and will be distributing its pre-positioned emergency materials for 10,000 households stockpiled in Biratnagar, Bharatpur, Nepalgunj and Kathmandu. So far, UNICEF has dispatched WASH, Education, Health, and Child Protection related supplies worth more than US$614,000 to 19 affected districts. These supplies have reached more than 55,000 families (368,272 people, including 179,521 children and 2,124 adolescents, 18,730 pregnant and lactating women).

### Summary Analysis of Programme Response

#### Nutrition

**Needs:** Mothers and care givers of an estimated 50,000 children aged 6 to 59 months suffering from MAM require targeted supplementary feeding service, and 67,000 children aged 6 to 23 months and pregnant and lactating women required blanket supplementary feeding services. An estimated 15,000 children aged 6 to 59 months suffering from SAM require therapeutic feeding service. Mothers and caregivers of an estimated 80,000 children aged 0 to 6 months require counseling on exclusive breastfeeding, while those of an estimated 200,000 children aged 6 to 23 months require counseling on timely and appropriate complementary feeding with continuation of breastfeeding. An estimated 800,000 children need Vitamin A supplementation, and iron and folic acid supplementation is required for an estimated 200,000 pregnant and lactating women.

**Response:** Cluster members conducted a nutritional assessment of 10,257 children aged 6 to 59 months. Among them, 620 (6 per cent) were identified with SAM and 1,751 (17.1 per cent) were identified with MAM. Distribution of 200 metric ton of fortified super flour to 35,800 children aged 6 to 23 months and 30,900 pregnant and lactating women in 13 flood-affected districts has been completed. Treatment of children aged 6 to 59 months with SAM in flood-affected districts has been ongoing through existing outpatient therapeutic centres and Nutrition Rehabilitation Homes. Currently, around 2,800 children are under treatment for SAM. The Nutrition cluster started scaling up the Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition (IMAM) for the management of SAM in four flood-affected districts, i.e. Banke, Dang, Kailali and Rupandehi. UNICEF has initiated partnership with four civil society organizations to implement emergency nutrition response in a total of 10 flood-affected Terai districts (Dhanusha, Jhapa,
Mahottari, Morang, Parsa, Rautahat, Saptaari, Sarlahi, Siraha and Sunsari) and in six of the 10 districts (Mahottari, Rautahat, Saptaari, Sarlahi, Siraha and Sunsari) through a joint programme with WFP. The concerned partners are ready to implement emergency nutrition response. Messages to improve breastfeeding and complementary feeding practices have been continuously broadcast by 58 local FM stations in 18 flood-affected districts covering 1 million population.

**Gaps and Constraints:** The cluster lacks supply of Micro-Nutrient Powder (MNP) to reach all children aged 6 to 23 months in the flood-affected districts. Nutrition Cluster has so far received approximately US$4,300,000 (50%), out of the required amount of US$8 million from DFID, the Government of France, Government of Australia and the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF).

**Health**

**Needs:** There is need for increased health awareness; medicines and medical tents; human resource support; surveillance of epidemic diseases including vaccine preventable diseases, and formation of epidemic response team in the flood-affected districts.

**Response:** UNICEF immediately deployed field staff in the flood-affected districts for coordination and rapid response and assisted to collect information on the status of health facilities and birthing centres. It also supported the resumption of basic services in health facilities. UNICEF used its own resources to initiate support for the Child Health Division of the Ministry of Health in conducting Intensification of Routine Immunization (IRI) activities in 16 flood-affected districts in September by conducting micro-planning process, orientation of staff and volunteers, social mobilization including messages on immunization through local FM radio stations and supporting outreach and facility-based vaccination sessions. Immunization messages were aired from 113 local FM stations in 16 districts for 24 hours, 12 times airing per day in September. A total of 4,108 children (9 to 23 months old) received measles and rubella (MR) vaccine during the September round of IRI against the target of 80,000 (for MR only). A total of 30,000 pregnant women and over 334,000 children (for all routine vaccines) need to be vaccinated by the end of the year. UNICEF field office in Biratnagar supported District Public Health Offices (DPHOs) in Jhapa, Morang, Saptaari, Siraha and Sunsari districts for broadcasting preventive health messages in local language. The DPHOs have also provided support to mobilize Female Community Health Volunteers (FCHVs) focusing on disease prevention and distribution of chlorine tablets, oral rehydration solution (ORS), zinc tablets as well as long-lasting insecticide treated nets (LLIN), newborn incentive kits and tents to pregnant/lactating mothers and babies. So far 28,000 LLINs, 10,350 ORS sachets and ORS and Zinc packs have been distributed. Stock of 10,000 ITNs and 20,000 packs of ORS and Zinc (ORS fl.0.5Lx4+Zinc 20mg 10tabs.kit/PAC) and 697,000 ORS sachets have been replenished as prepositioning of supplies for future emergencies.

**Gaps and Constraints:** Unrealistic demand of supplies from the district partners and difficulty in providing supplies to the real needy families.

**WASH**

**Needs:** There is a need for continuation of WASH response and recovery work with end use monitoring, as well as dialogues with districts stakeholders to ensure linkage with development programme agenda.

**Response:** UNICEF continues to provide its support to the government in WASH Cluster coordination as its Co-lead and simultaneously providing direct assistance to the affected districts through agency-specific WASH response. The Cluster has been able to provide life-saving WASH supplies such as 2,417,480 water purification tablets, 24,293 hygiene kits and 18,140 buckets benefitting 404,837 people in 80,967 households. UNICEF together with other members of the WASH Cluster has planned to conduct a joint monitoring visit to the affected community at the end of October 2017 to ensure that the quality of response is maintained and the genuinely affected population are receiving support. Rehabilitation of damaged and destroyed water supply systems and sanitation facilities continues in the affected districts by the government and Cluster members. Hygiene promotion is continued by Cluster member agencies in the affected districts for prevention of water-borne diseases and public health concerns.

As part of this response, UNICEF was able to reach around 100,000 people directly through distribution of life-saving WASH materials that included hygiene kits, bucket, mugs, water purification solutions and hygiene promotion. Following immediate response, further support is being provided for the repair and rehabilitation of water supply schemes and sources and sanitation facilities that were damaged by the floods.

**Gaps and Constraints:** A total of 395,163 affected people still need to be reached against target of 800,000. UNICEF has received $1 million through CERF fund to reach 104,623 affected people in 20,924 households. So far, no other funding commitments have been received from donors. Provincial and parliamentary elections in November could hamper response works. UNICEF will require an additional US$1 million to fulfill its target to provide full WASH assistance to 200,000 people.

**Child Protection**

**Needs and Priorities:** The needs and priorities for child protection response include the establishment of protection services such as safe houses, female-friendly spaces (FFS), and child-friendly spaces (CFS) for vulnerable people including pregnant, lactating women and girls; prevention of and response to Gender-Based Violence (GBV); and provision of psychosocial support for children, women and vulnerable people. There is also a need for ongoing data collection, situation assessment as well as for information, education and communication materials including pocket card that provides information for reporting and awareness raising - ideally for distribution through other Clusters as well.
Response: A total of 4,036 individuals (1,377 children, 2,041 women and 618 men) have been provided with psychosocial support services. Twenty-four CFS are in operation in seven affected districts benefitting 1,820 children. Nine FFS are in operation in Bardiya, Dang, Kailali, Mahottari, Morang, Rautahat, Sarlahi, Siraha and Sunsari districts catering to the needs of 450 pregnant, lactating women and adolescent girls. A total of 4,418 dignity kits have been distributed to women and adolescent girls. Public service announcements on prevention of trafficking, psychosocial support, GBV and Child Protection are being aired through 156 FM stations in 22 affected districts in four local languages. UNICEF is also providing emergency support to 1,500 children in 15 districts.

Gaps and Constraints: Insufficient dignity kits and nutritious food to meet the caseload of affected pregnant and lactating women. Loss of civil documentation (birth registration, citizenship documents, land certificates, etc.) poses an obstacle, to access relief and recovery support and compensation. So far, the Cluster has received only $303,479 out of the required $900,000.

Education

Needs and Priorities: The needs and priorities for education response include supply of text books and Education Kits (ECD Kits, School Kits, Student Kits – Junior and Senior); and repair and maintenance of schools and classrooms including of WASH facilities in schools in order to ensure an enabling environment for children to continue their learning.

Response: The Ministry of Education has submitted a fund request to the Ministry of Finance amounting to NRs 300 million (US$ 2.86 million) to cover the cost of text books, student bags and repair and maintenance of classrooms of flood-affected schools. Cluster members have distributed 281 ECD Kits, 904 School Kits, 9,608 Junior Student Kit and 7,413 Senior Student Kits in 18 flood-affected districts.

Education Cannot Wait (ECW) – a global fund for education in emergency – has approved US$1.8 million for the Education Cluster’s joint response plan. Four Cluster members (UNICEF, Save the Children, Plan International and UNESCO) have submitted the proposal to ECW to cover the education response in the 12 most affected districts.

Collaboration has been initiated with WASH Cluster in some of the eastern districts, with the District Water Supply and Sanitation Office (DWSSO) conducting WASH awareness activities in affected schools of Jhapa, Morang, Sunsari, Saptari and Siraha districts. Saptari DWSSO also provided Aqua Tabs to schools and is planning special school WASH activities for the repair and maintenance of WASH facilities in schools. UNICEF is also supporting the Cluster information management system.

Gaps and Constraints: Although schools resumed soon after the floods, factors such as festivals, local elections as well as the absence of text books, inadequate education kits have affected the full teaching and learning environment. The upcoming provincial elections in November may again hamper children’s education and response activities as schools will be closed during polls.

There is a shortfall in the supply of nearly 4,800 ECD and School Kits and 158,000 Student Kits in the 18 affected districts. Due to the resource constraints, only a basic set of stationary will be distributed to students to cover the large number of students instead of the full package of individual kit.

Social Policy (cash-based programming)

UNICEF developed a concept note for emergency cash transfer programme to support vulnerable flood-affected communities by using the existing social protection system and there was an initial interest from donors. Required resources could not be secured due to sensitivities related to cash distribution during rounds of elections (local, provincial and national) conducted in the country this year. Dialogue needs to be held on how to adhere to humanitarian principles even during a politically-sensitive period.

Communications for Development (C4D), / Community Engagement and Accountability

Needs and Priorities: The needs and priorities for C4D and Community Engagement and Accountability include wide dissemination of information related to safe water, sanitation and hygiene, food, education, health, protection and relief efforts.

Response: Messages on safety during floods and landslides were aired through 162 radio stations across 22 affected districts in Nepal as well as local languages of the affected areas. Radio series episodes on preparedness as well as precautions to be taken during floods were aired in 22 districts in Nepali and in local dialects (Maithili, Awadhi, Bhojpuri and Khas languages) in specific districts. Repeat broadcasts are continuing to reach affected populations. Feedback from communities is being collected by members of the Community Engagement Working Group. The feedback is being analysed by the Common Feedback Project. The primary concerns and needs include lack of food and shelter, inadequate relief distribution, loss of agriculture and livestock, and the safety of children. UNICEF had provided training to community radio stations on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and emergency response programming. A total of 14 radio stations across the affected districts produced and aired contents on floods. Out of them, 10 radio stations produced content exclusively focusing on issues related to women and children, and eight radio stations also collected feedback from affected communities. Some of the emerging priority needs among affected communities were related to relief and shelter, water, food and education.
Gaps/Constraints: There is a need to increase community outreach to directly contact affected families and communities with essential information.

Supply and Logistics
Over US$562,082 worth of contingency supplies (WASH, Education, Health and Child Protection) have been dispatched to 19 flood-affected districts. Supplies have reached more than 55,000 families benefitting 368,272 people (179,521 children and 2,124 adolescents, 18,730 pregnant and lactating women). Supplies distributed include 1,360,450 water purification tablets, 11,240 hygiene kits, 9,760 buckets, 20,976 long-lasting insecticide treated nets, 2,312 blankets, 934 newborn kits, 6,006 tarpaulins, 10,350 ORS and Zinc tablets, 152 ECD kits, 281 School kits, 3,274 Student kits (child), 1,726 Student kits (adolescent).

Media and External Communication
A writer and a videographer hired by UNICEF travelled to flood-affected Saptari District to capture stories related to the positive impact of UNICEF’s Child-Centred Disaster Risk Reduction programme during the floods. A project called Child-Centred Disaster Risk Reduction (CCDRR) implemented with financial support from Margaret A. Cargill Foundation helped the concerned communities minimize the impact of floods and their experiences are documented in a short video (http://unicef.org.np/latest-updates/stories/2017/10/13/unicef-and-margaret-a-cargill-foundation-s-child-centred-disaster-risk-reduction-programme-helps-communities-minimize-nepal-flood-impact); https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IrQUcHhfRUA). Additionally, a UNICEF-hired photographer and a videographer visited Chitwan District to document the novel and exemplary roles of local government and newly-elected officials in the relief and response to the floods (http://nepaltimes.com/article/nation/better-relief-if-newly-elected-local-representative-take-charge,3900). The materials collected by the documentation teams from the field continue to be used for social media posts on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram and shared with UNICEF Headquarters.

Security
The Third phase of local level elections in Province No. 2 was concluded on 18 September. Overall, the election was conducted peacefully with no reports of significant security incidents. However, there were many complaints about violation of Election Code of Conducts, as well as the use of children in political rallies and campaigns. Schools were closed during elections as many of them were used as polling booths. Elections for the Provincial Assemblies and the House of Representatives are going to be conducted in two phases on 26 November and 7 December 2017. The nominations for the given elections have been filed on 22 October for the first phase and on 2 November for the second phase. As local level elections caused a delay in distribution of programme supplies and movement of personnel in some areas, the upcoming elections could also cause similar delays.

Funding
UNICEF requires US$13.55 million to implement its six-month response plan for supporting the flood-affected communities. So far, only US$4.04 million has been received (including for the floods and earthquake). There is still a funding gap of US$10.51 million. Figures presented in the table below only reflect funding received for the floods response from CERF, Government of France and DFID. The UN Humanitarian Country Team (UNHCT) issued a Joint Response Plan (JRP) for six months to meet the ongoing response and recovery needs of the affected communities totalling US$41.4 million.

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<th>Appeal Sector</th>
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<th>Funds received Current Year*</th>
<th>Carry-Over</th>
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*In addition to emergency funds received, UNICEF Nepal has used other resources (Regular Resources and Development Resources) in the amount of $831,274 to support the humanitarian response.

Next SitRep: December 2017

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