TC Winston Highlights

- UNICEF is supporting early recovery activities and supplies in WASH, education, maternal and child health, child protection and communicating with communities
- UNICEF is supporting MoEHA, MoMHA and i-Taukei Affairs with field monitoring of supplies and activities delivered to communities in response to TC Winston
- U-Report is being launched as an inter-ministerial initiative that will connect Government to the voices of Fijians throughout the country
- Safety and Protection assessment was completed in 35 villages and urban settlements in 4 Fiji Divisions affected by TC Winston
- A Post Disaster Needs Assessment has been done to assess the socio-economic impact of TC Winston

As of 30 April 2016 in Fiji:

- **16,000 students** provided backpacks and learning supplies by UNICEF
- **7,700 children** are using tents as temporary learning spaces
- **60 communities** reached through integrated mobile outreach activities
- **2,300 children** reached through the ‘Just Play Emergency Programme’

UNICEF Cyclone Winston Appeal (within the UN Flash Appeal) **US$ 7.1 million**

UNICEF Pacific El Nino Appeal **US$ 5 million**

Highlights from around the Pacific

- In April, severe weather events including tropical depressions and cyclones brought heavy rain, strong wind and rough seas to parts of Cook Islands, Fiji, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu. Parts of Vanuatu were also badly shaken by a series of earthquakes including a 7.0 magnitude earthquake on 29 April.
- The Republic of Marshall Islands and Palau both declared a state of emergency due to drought conditions. The States of Chuuk and Yap in the Federated States of Micronesia are also experiencing drought.
- UNICEF deployed a specialist to assess the impact of the drought on children, pregnant women and breastfeeding mothers in the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) and the Republic of Marshall Islands, and a nutrition specialist to FSM.
- Governments from 13 Pacific Island Nations signed the COP 21 Climate Change Agreement.
- UNICEF is supporting eight Pacific Island Countries with the transition to bivalent oral polio vaccine as part of the World Health Assembly’s Polio Eradication and Endgame Strategic Plan.
Overview of TC Winston and flooding in Fiji

More than two months have passed since Category 5 Tropical Cyclone Winston hit Fiji with devastating impact. Just six weeks later, three simultaneous tropical disturbances, including Category 2 Tropical Cyclone Zena, brought heavy rainfall to Fiji, including several areas already affected by Cyclone Winston. Entire villages, urban neighbourhoods, schools and health facilities, roads and bridges flooded. Crops were again destroyed, including newly replanted seeds and seedlings, deepening the vulnerability of many families dependent on these as a key source of income and food. While the official “State of Natural Disaster” after TC Winston ended on 19 April 2016, the wellbeing of the 30,000 households, whose houses were damaged or destroyed by Tropical Cyclone Winston and especially those who experienced repeated flooding, continues to be of concern. Families affected multiple times are struggling to recover and livelihoods, health and hygiene concerns remain, including the risk of mosquito and water-borne diseases and respiratory and skin infections.

A Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) was done to assess the socio-economic impact of the cyclone, including quantifying the damage and loss in critical sectors of the economy. The PDNA focused on critical early, medium and long-term recovery and reconstruction needs and will provide a Disaster Recovery Framework to ensure a coordinated response to recovery transition. The PDNA is being reviewed by Government and will be tabled in Cabinet on 11 May.

The Fiji National Disaster Management Office, with support from the Pacific Community (S/PC) plans to hold a series of lessons-learned exercises in early May at the divisional and national levels. Humanitarian Organisations and UN agencies will be invited to provide inputs to these workshops to support the evaluation process and preparedness planning.

UNICEF continues to provide humanitarian interventions for children and their families still in need of assistance in the hardest hit areas while also supporting early recovery in WASH, education, maternal and child health, child protection and communicating with communities. As part of its recovery approach, UNICEF aims to strengthen capacity, resilience and community participation and is incorporating preparedness and risk reduction of possible long term adverse effects of cyclones and flooding including possible La Nina effects.

Education

More than 7,700 children and their teachers are currently using tents as temporary learning spaces, including 6,360 children using tents provided by UNICEF. Schools continue to face challenges including teachers living inside classrooms as a result of teachers’ quarters being destroyed; flooding of temporary learning spaces and lack of adequate water, sanitation and hygiene facilities and outbreak of skin infections. Additional tents are still required for teacher living quarters and to support school rehabilitation works. UNICEF has procured additional tents, early childhood development kits, recreation kits, school bags and school-in-a-box sets that have been shipped to Fiji.

As of 28 April, more than 16,000 primary and secondary school students have received learning supplies, including student backpacks with stationery materials and 489 teachers have received teaching resources, including early childhood development resources and school-in-a-box kits provided by UNICEF.

UNICEF is working closely with the Ministry of Education, Heritage and Arts (MoEHA) and the Ministry of Health and Medical Services (MoHMS/Nutrition) to implement a school feeding programme in 31 schools in Koro, Vanuabalavu and Ovalau. As part of the programme, school gardens also will be restored so that school meals include fresh vegetables. The three month programme will give 4,361 children (girls 2,122 and 2,238 boys) at least one nutritious, cooked meal a day. Technical assistance and capacity building, including grant management and guidelines for provision of nutritionally balanced meals, was provided to 80 head teachers, school managers and education officers. This program is supported though funding from UN OCHA’s CERF and by the Government of Australia.

Education Cluster partners report that many children continue to display signs of distress, including fear of the rain and wind, following TC Winston. UNICEF is supporting MoEHA divisional counsellors to provide counselling, including music and art therapy, relaxation exercises and storytelling, to support the healing process for students and teachers affected by TC Winston. To date 3,492 students and 261 teachers have received counselling. UNICEF
also supported MoEHA with the development of resources and ‘tips for teachers’ to support the provision of psychosocial support to students. These are being printed and will be distributed in late May.

Through UNICEF support, a set of materials to help children heal, be resilient and adjust back to normal daily life following TC Winston has been produced, including six children’s books, songs, poems, eight posters and a teacher/adult caregiver guide. The story ideas came from real experiences of children during and after TC Winston and focus on how children and parents, of different ethnic groups and including those with disabilities, are resilient problem solvers for themselves and others. The materials, which have characters and drawings from Fijian life, received positive feedback during field testing with children, parents and teachers. During the field testing, one boy hugged and kissed his favourite book, while another child said, “Even when we are disabled, we can do things like Melita (character in one of the story books).” Final revisions are underway and printing expected in late May. More than 15,000 children are expected to receive these books. The workshop was funded by UNICEF, with publication and distribution of the materials funded by the Government of Australia.

**WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene)**

The WASH Cluster continues to focus on increasing access to water, sanitation and hygiene kits in communities affected by TC Winston and flooding. Hygiene promotion messages, standards and approaches are being by the Ministry of Health and Medical Services (MoHMS) to ensure consistency by all partners. UNICEF supported the MoHMS and cluster partners to develop joint standards and implementation plans for emergency sanitation.

With support from UNICEF, a consultant has been appointed to MoHMS to strengthen drinking water quality monitoring systems and partnerships with relevant government ministries and departments. The consultant is working with MoHMS and WHO to link existing water quality systems with health surveillance and early warning and response systems to inform interventions that aim to prevent the spread of communicable diseases.

UNICEF signed agreements with the Fijian Teacher’s Association and Project Heaven, two civil society organisations, which aim to restore access to safe water for drinking and handwashing and provide of safe, culturally appropriate, gender segregated, sanitation facilities to 64 of the worst affected primary schools and early childhood education centres in Western Division. These partnerships build on existing school and community networks and will apply the Three Star Approach to WASH in Schools, which progresses schools through incremental, achievable, sustainable improvements initially focusing on a daily supervised activities, such as group handwashing, and the provision of safe drinking water. These WASH in Schools programmes are funded by the Government of Australia and USAID and aim to reach 11,200 children and 200 teachers.

UNICEF also signed an agreement with Habitat for Humanity Fiji that aims to reach children and their families in 50 rural and informal communities in Western and Central Divisions. The project aims to provide safe emergency sanitation and bathing facilities to prevent the spread of disease, ensure dignity and reduce vulnerability of women and children who may be forced to bath in streams or creeks. Community assessments will be conducted to identify vulnerable communities and interventions will be based on a “hand-up” approach whereby community members will participate in the design of facilities and will be required to contribute to their construction and take local ownership of the maintenance of these facilities.

**Health and Nutrition**

Approximately 60 villages that are far-away from health centres, in Ba Highlands, Ra Highlands, Ra Coastal, Ovalau, Taveuni, Vanua balavu, Savusavu/Bua and Koro have been reached through integrated mobile outreach activities. Eight teams, each composed of an outpatient practitioner, nutritionist/dietician, midwife, specialist in integrated management of childhood illness and specialist in maternal and child health have been deployed to monitor the health and nutrition situation of children, pregnant women and lactating mothers. These outreach activities will maintain immunization coverage above 90% and reduce the burden of under-nutrition and childhood illness through the distribution of multi-micronutrient powder, vitamin A and de-worming tablets. Patients will be referred to clinics when necessary, following screening for severe malnutrition, non-communicable disease and other serious health problems. Based on surveillance reports from 28 locations, there is a concern about children under
five reported with acute water diarrhoea, meningitis, and influenza like illness. Funding from UN OCHA’s CERF is supporting this joint programme of MoHMS, UNICEF, UNFPA and WHO.

Observation visits indicate that infant and young child feeding practices do not meet minimum standards, particularly regarding breastfeeding. Updates from the Nutrition sub-Cluster suggest the impact of TC Winston has increased vulnerability to malnutrition. To date, 33 cases of severe acute malnutrition and 104 cases of moderate malnutrition cases have been reported. UNICEF provided the MoHMS with therapeutic milk, micronutrient powder, Vitamin A and deworming to support the treatment and management of severe acute malnutrition, improve children’s immunity and treat and prevent anaemia. A Nutrition Specialist obtained by UNICEF through a partner arrangement, is helping the MoHMS to strengthen the identification and management of severe acute malnutrition. An Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition refresher training will take place on 6 June 2016.

UNICEF is supporting MoHMS to rebuild the vaccine cold chain system after TC Winston. A technology gap assessment has been carried out and a report produced. UNICEF has procured disaster resilient cold chain equipment that uses sustainable, environmentally friendly technology and disaster resilient installation designs for 74 solar powered refrigerators. The refrigerators are expected to arrive in June. UNICEF will deploy a cold chain specialist for 11 months to provide technical support to MoHMS on the installation and maintenance of the cold chain supply equipment, including instruction on how to dismantle and safely store the equipment before a cyclone, as well as support to align vaccine management practices to WHO standards. UNICEF is also procuring 15 solar power systems to provide power to selected health facilities. Procurement of this equipment is supported by the Government of Australia. Typhoid vaccines procured by UNICEF are being used to vaccine selected target populations, alongside a programme of case identification, treatment and outreach that includes WASH promotion.

MoHMS has 400 staff trained in psychological first aid and plans to train 300 more. They get basic skills in screening and assessment and counselling, and make referrals if necessary for severe mental illness cases. So far they have reached 24,460 clients at 288 sites.

WHO logisticians and the Fiji Pharmaceutical and Biomedical Services carried out a four day Humanitarian Response Supply Chain Management Workshop. The UNICEF Information Management Officer carried out a half day training on managing information during disasters.

(see the Health and Nutrition Cluster Bulletins #6 and #7 for more information http://www.health.gov.fj/?page_id=5254)

Safety and Protection (including Child Protection and Gender-Based Violence)

The Safety and Protection Cluster is coordinated by the Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation (MoWCPA) and supported by UNICEF and UN Women. The Cluster members carried out the first Inter-Organisational Post Disaster Protection Assessment. They used Akvo Flow, a software that allows for real-time data collection on smart phones. Initial findings reveal the need for safe, supervised spaces where children can play more safely; an increase in children being engaged in income generating activities and an increase in family separation due to people moving to safer areas or searching for income opportunities. Further data analysis is ongoing and the findings and final report will be released to coincide with the Post Disaster Needs Assessment. The assessment will be used to inform recovery programming and for advocacy across sectors to ensure protection needs are addressed.

UNICEF supported the Pacific Disability Forum, in partnership with the Fiji Disabled People’s Federation, to conduct an assessment of the needs of persons with disability. Key findings from the assessment revealed that the majority of persons with disability affected by TC Winston had their houses completely destroyed and that basic needs including access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene and appropriate shelter are still a concern. The assessment also found that women with disabilities have been extremely affected by loss of livelihoods and identified the need for improved preparedness and planning to support persons with disability. Findings from the assessment have been shared with cluster partners to enable targeted response interventions to support vulnerable persons with disability.

The first phase of the ‘Just Play Emergency Programme’ has reached 2,300 children through activities in 41 communities, 14 schools and ten community festivals. The Just Play programme promotes psycho-social strength
through sports and helps children aged 6-12 years learn and practice good hygiene, healthy eating and other life skills and appreciate diversity. Children are also guided to safely share and reflect on the emotional impact that TC Winston had on them, their families and their communities. Phase two will commence in early May with teams deployed to Savusavu, Bua, the Yasawas, Ovalau, Batiki, Gau and Nairai following debriefing and redeployment training for 36 Just Play coordinators and volunteers. The programme aims to reach 15,000 children affected by TC Winston.

Through its partnership with the Department of Social Welfare in the MoWCPA, UNICEF is supporting social welfare officers to provide community-based psycho-social support to ensure the safety and security of children and to identify and refer clinical cases of psychological trauma.

UNICEF continues to support the Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages Office to provide replacement birth certificates and birth registration free of charge in the worst-affected areas to ensure people affected by TC Winston are able to access health, housing and education relief and recovery services.

Seven Women Friendly Spaces were established by UNFPA to provide a safe space for women and girls to access psycho-social support, multi-sectoral referrals and related services for survivors of gender-based violence. The Fiji Women’s Crisis Centre facilitated three-day workshops for women facilitators who manage the women friendly spaces on topics related to gender-based violence, gender equity and referral mechanisms. Activities being conducted through the spaces also include community profiling. The Gender-Based Violence sub-cluster is working on the development of a national gender-based violence service protocol with support from UN Women. Information, education and communication (IEC) material have been developed and distributed to raise awareness about gender-based violence and support services for survivors. A Pro-Cap advisor has joined the Gen-Cap advisor; both are working with Cluster members to strengthen the Pacific Protection Cluster.

**Communication**

UNICEF continues to support the MoHMS with radio broadcasts, dissemination of information, education and communication (IEC) print materials and interpersonal communication through social mobilization and community outreach. Approximately 8,000 public service announcements have been broadcast in English, iTaukei and Hindi languages with key messages on hand washing, boiling water, destroying mosquito breeding sites, rubbish disposal, nutrition (including breastfeeding and infant and young child feeding), emotional wellbeing/psychosocial support, family health and family planning.

UNICEF is providing assistance to support the MoHMS to plan and prepare an integrated social mobilization workshop for community outreach-workers from faith-based organisations and women and youth groups, which is scheduled for 11th May. Support is also being provided to partners requesting additional IEC print materials.

UNICEF is providing technical support for the Fiji adaptation of U-Report and its roll out in June as a community feedback mechanism for TC Winston. U-Report is a community participation tool that uses mobile phone technology to collect confidential information to better understand what people want or need and what services and supplies they have already received or accessed by age group, geographical area and gender. U-Report is an Inter-Ministerial initiative, led by a National Steering Committee under the guidance of the Permanent Secretary for Communication and Information Technology. It provides an opportunity to connect Government to the voices of Fijians throughout the country. This will be the first time that U-Report will be rolled out in the Pacific; it is the first time globally that U-Report will be government-led; and Fiji will be the first country in the world to use the newly launched U-Report Facebook Messenger platform as one of the multiple channels U-reporters can use. Other channels for reporting include a smartphone app and SMS integration with Vodafone and Digicel, all linked by the RapidPro platform. Fiji joins 23 countries, representing more than two million volunteer U Reporters. More information on U Report can be found here.

**Monitoring and Evaluation**

UNICEF is supporting the MoEHA, MoHMS and iTaukei Affairs with field monitoring of the supplies and activities delivered to communities in response to Cyclone Winston. Lead by a field monitoring coordinator, six field monitors working in teams of two people will visit 120 communities to confirm the receipt of assistance provided by UNICEF and discuss its usefulness with teachers, nurses and community members. While the focus is on WASH
and education, which distributed the largest amount of supplies, information is also being gathered regarding nutrition, child protection and communication with communities. UNICEF is working in close consultation with the relevant Government ministries and local authorities to plan field monitoring missions. Field testing of the questionnaire was completed in six communities on 27-28 April and revisions made to the quality and usefulness of the data collection.

Humanitarian Performance Indicator Table for Cyclone Winston in Fiji 30 April 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>UNICEF</th>
<th>Cluster (including UNICEF)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>UNICEF Target</td>
<td>Cumulative results</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td># affected children benefitting from provision of temporary learning spaces (tents and tarpaulins)</td>
<td>30,500</td>
<td>32,925</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td># children benefiting from learning materials</td>
<td>23,000</td>
<td>16,417</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WASH</td>
<td># people with access to safe water</td>
<td>50,000</td>
<td>11,617</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td># of people provided with sanitation or hygiene kits or key hygiene items</td>
<td>50,000</td>
<td>21,242</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td># of children in school/learning programmes with access to sufficient water</td>
<td>22,000</td>
<td>5,499</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td># of children with access to appropriately designed, gender segregated toilets</td>
<td>22,000</td>
<td>To be done at mid-term break</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health and Nutrition</td>
<td># health facilities with cold rooms/cold chain equipment restored or improved</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td># of children aged 6-59 months reached by Vitamin A and deworming</td>
<td>25,000</td>
<td>693</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safety and Protection</td>
<td># children provided with psychosocial support</td>
<td>60,000</td>
<td>2,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td># youths trained as peer educators</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communicating with</td>
<td># prime time radio spots on health and hygiene messages</td>
<td>14,000</td>
<td>8,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communities</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cluster Coordination</td>
<td># personnel deployed for technical assistance to ministries that are leading Clusters</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>9*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Two for the WASH Cluster, two for the Education Cluster, three for Health and Nutrition Cluster and two for Safety and Protection Cluster

Impact of El Nino and other natural hazards in Pacific Island Countries

The El Nino phenomenon continues to have a strong impact across the Pacific, particularly in Northern Pacific Island Countries. Following months of drought, the Republic of Marshall Islands and Palau both declared a national state of emergency due to drought conditions, although very recent rainfall in Palau is starting to alleviate the situation. The States of Chuuk and Yap in the Federated States of Micronesia are also experiencing drought. Extended water shortages and loss of crops have negative impacts on the health, hygiene and nutrition of children, pregnant women and breastfeeding mothers across the Pacific.

In April, severe weather events including tropical depressions and cyclones brought heavy rain, strong winds and rough seas to parts of Cook Islands, Fiji, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu. Many communities experienced damages; livelihood disruption and dislocation due to flooding.

El Nino is expected to be followed by La Nina in the second half of 2016, which could exacerbate the negative effects in countries that have experienced El Nino conditions. Preparedness for potential widespread flooding and related events is required, taking into account the reduced coping mechanisms of vulnerable communities already affected by El Nino.

UNICEF has received a pledge of USD$ 500,000 from the Government of Italy for El Nino relief.
Thirteen Pacific Governments signed the COP 21 Climate Change Agreement at the UN in New York. In his address to the UN, Fiji Prime Minister Bainimarama called for all countries to not only ratify the agreement, but to further lower the proposed cap on global warming from two degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels to 1.5 degrees.

“We in the Pacific are seeking a new cap of 1.5 degrees Celsius as part of our Suva Declaration at the last gathering of the Pacific Islands Development Forum in the Fijian capital. Even this may not be enough given some of the more dire scientific warnings. But we commend the Suva Declaration to you all as a vital next step for the global community as we confront the biggest challenge of our time,” he said.

**Federated States of Micronesia**

In late April, UNICEF staff visited FSM to better understand the impact of El Nino on children and to provide advice on child-sensitive interventions. He found that drought continues to negatively impact women and children and other vulnerable people that are already isolated due to the hard to reach location of their homes. There are significant challenges around coordination, communications, logistics and transport to isolated islands and atolls, and this is constraining efforts to address needs in water, sanitation and hygiene, health and nutrition.

UNICEF deployed a Nutrition Specialist to support the national and state governments of FSM in strengthening prevention, screening, referrals and treatment of moderate and acute malnutrition. The Nutrition Specialist will also support partners to address micronutrient deficiency of women and children through micronutrient powder, Vitamin A and deworming.

UNICEF provided the Department of Education with funds for desalination units to support the provision of clean, safe water for drinking and handwashing.

UNICEF is also providing support with the procurement of 80,000 doses of tuberculosis vaccine as part of its regular development support.

**Republic of Marshall Islands**

The President of the Republic of Marshall Islands declared a State of Disaster due to the drought conditions and requested emergency assistance. The US President also declared the severe drought in the Republic of Marshall Islands a disaster, which has opened the door for emergency US funding for the Pacific Island nation.

UNICEF has deployed a humanitarian and WASH specialist to the Republic of Marshall Islands to assess the scale of the drought and its impact on children, pregnant women and breastfeeding mothers, with particular attention to WASH, education, health, nutrition and protection. His mission will result in recommendations on how response activities can be designed to ensure the needs of children and vulnerable groups are met.

As part of its regular development programme, UNICEF is supporting the procurement of 26,000 doses of tuberculosis vaccine to ensure children receive this vital vaccination.

More information on the impact of climate change in the Pacific is available in the WHO report *Human health and climate change in Pacific Island Countries.*
Palau
UNICEF provided the Ministry of Health with pre-positioned emergency health and nutrition supplies including a comprehensive health kit that can serve 1,000 people; two tents for health clinics; oral rehydration salts; micronutrient powder for children; vitamin A; water purification tablets; household water containers and soap for handwashing. Water purification tablets were sent to the State of Sonsorol following the failure of the main water tank. Shortly after the water purification tablets were distributed a government crew were deployed to repair and restore the water supply. In response to the drought household water containers were distributed to community health centres to be used for drinking water storage. UNICEF is awaiting a request from Government for replenishment of pre-positioned items in the event that further supplies are required.

Vanuatu
In response to severe El Nino drought conditions, a total of 5,298 women, men, girls and boys in the Shepherds and Efate Offshore Islands of Buniga, Emae, Emau, Lelepa, Makira, Mataso, Moso, Nguna, Pele, and Tongariki continue to be provided with clean, fresh water every month (1,192 cubic metres of water per month). This is through a contract between UNICEF and Kaleva Yachting Services (KYS) in support of the Department of Geology, Mines and Water Resources (DGMWR) response plan. Priority islands for delivery of desalinated water by KYS are determined by DGMWR based on fortnightly telephone survey monitoring by the National Disaster Management Office.

In April, parts of Vanuatu were badly shaken by a series of earthquakes ranging from 4.3 magnitude through 7.0 magnitude. UNICEF Vanuatu publishes its own Partner Update: More information on UNICEF support in WASH, Education, Child Protection and Health and Nutrition in Vanuatu can be found by clicking here.

More news from around the Pacific

Polio Vaccine transition in the Pacific
UNICEF is supporting eight Pacific Island Countries (Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu) with the transition to bivalent oral polio vaccine. The switch is part of the World Health Assembly’s Polio Eradication and Endgame Strategic Plan. UNICEF has deployed a consultant to provide comprehensive support to countries with the effective management of the transition and ensure that public health and safety is maintained.

Kiribati
UNICEF is supporting the Government and communities to improve access to safe drinking water and improve sanitation practices, through water, health and sanitation safety planning. UNICEF provided rainwater harvesting tanks to 45 communities in the outer islands and aims to reach an additional 55 communities in the coming months.

UNICEF continues to support the Ministry of Education to improve access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene at schools and empower children as agents of behaviour change regarding water, sanitation and hygiene practices. UNICEF is targeting 36 schools with the provision on water, sanitation and hygiene infrastructure and WASH in Schools kits and has supported the development of minimum standards and guidelines, teacher training around safe water and improved sanitation and hygiene practices.

The UNICEF WASH Programme has completed an on-line, updated version of Harvesting the Heavens, a publication originally done by SOPAC, and of great practical use for explaining the topography, geology and weather of Pacific atolls, and how to build and maintain appropriate technology systems for rainwater harvesting.

Following an outbreak of conjunctivitis, UNICEF worked with the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education to promote good hygiene practices in communities and schools to reduce the spread of disease.

Solomon Islands
In order to strengthen the WASH in Schools program, UNICEF is supporting the Ministry of Education and Human Resources Development to create a WASH in Schools Program Officer position. The creation of this role will ensure that WASH in Schools activities continue to be moved forward across the country. UNICEF is also recruiting a WASH specialist who will provide support to this new role as well as support to Government and implementing partners to ensure continuation of its WASH development programme.

UNICEF continues to work with World Vision to improve access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene facilities in schools in Makira province. UNICEF is also working with World Vision and Live and Learn to reduce open defecation and improve sanitation and hygiene practices using the Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) methodology in Isabelle and Malaita provinces.

Data collection for the Rural WASH baseline survey is complete. UNICEF is working with the Government and WaterAid to review and analyse the data which will be used to inform relevant policies related to provision and maintenance of water supply and sanitation and hygiene facilities.

UNICEF support Government to include a Nutrition module in the Demographic Health Survey 2015 in order to gain an understanding of the nutrition status of children and pregnant women and infant and young child feeding practices. The report is currently being reviewed and the findings will inform policy development and nutrition programme planning and development.

Samoa


Funding

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