



Reporting Period: 1 April – 30 June 2021

East Asia and Pacific Region

Humanitarian Situation Report No. 2

for every child

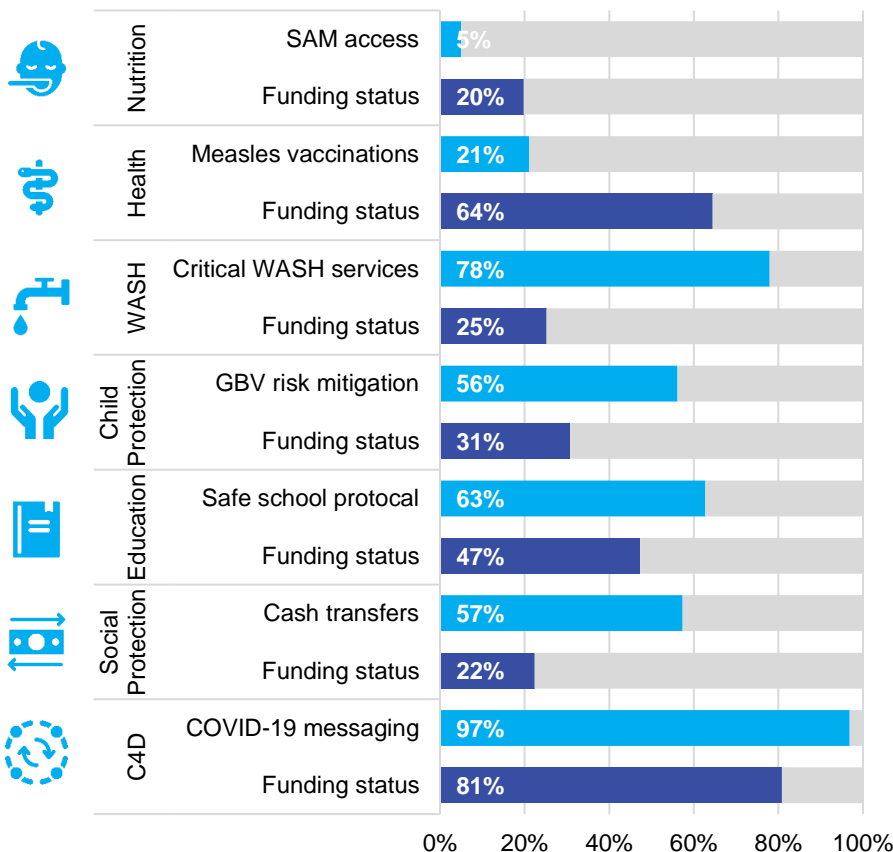
Highlights

- The number of confirmed cases and deaths from COVID-19 in East Asia and the Pacific have risen sharply over the past three months. In total, 6,210,531 positive cases and 119,440 deaths have been confirmed in the region, with Indonesia (2,379,397 cases) and the Philippines (1,445,832 cases) being the most affected.
- Countries across the region are racing to vaccinate their populations against COVID-19, however the speed of transmission by COVID-19 variants is outpacing the rate of vaccination in many countries.
- The pandemic is also exacerbating risks to child protection, with increases in online child sexual abuse and exploitation and reports of child marriage in the region.
- UNICEF has supported 4 million women, girls and boys in accessing gender-based violence risk mitigation, prevention or response interventions.
- UNICEF has also supported 134,179 schools to implement safe school protocols and 31 million children with access to formal or non-formal education, including early learning.

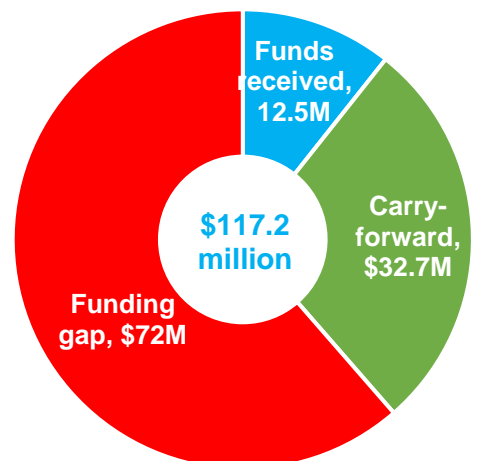
Situation in Numbers

- 6,210,531** confirmed COVID-19 cases and **119,440** deaths
- 500,000** additional children have SAM due to COVID-19
- 6.9 million** children are not immunized against measles
- 369 million** people lack access to basic hygiene services
- 144 million** children/adolescents lack access to education

UNICEF's Funding Status



Funding Status Regional 2021 HAC (US\$)



Regional Funding Overview

In 2021, UNICEF appeals for US\$117.2 million to meet the humanitarian needs of children, adolescents and women affected by emergencies, including chronic, protracted humanitarian situations as well as UNICEF's response to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic in the East Asia and Pacific (EAP) region. So far, **a total of US\$ 45.2 million¹** has been received against the 2021 EAP HAC (including 32.7 million carried-over from 2020 and 12.5 million received in 2021) from donors, including the Governments of Australia, New Zealand, Japan, the United States of America, the Republic of Korea, the United Kingdom, Ireland, Denmark, Sweden, China, the European Commission, the Asian Development Bank, the World Bank, CERF, the Global Partnership for Education, Gavi, the Solidarity Fund, United Nations Office for South South Cooperation, several private donors and UNICEF committees in Australia, France, Hong Kong, New Zealand, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and USA. UNICEF is currently in discussion with several public and private donors to raise funding for the US\$ 72 million shortfall for the East Asia and Pacific regional response. UNICEF acknowledges the generous contribution of donors including private sectors supporting this joint effort to respond and mitigate the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and other emergencies in the EAP region. Please refer to Annex B and Annex C for more detailed information on funding per functional area and country.

In addition, UNICEF has also received **US\$ 70.3 million for COVID-19 vaccine roll-out in East Asia and Pacific** in response to the Humanitarian Action for Children (HAC) Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator (ACT-A) / COVAX appeal. The ACT-A / COVAX HAC appeal which was launched and is managed globally complements the EAP Regional HAC appeal by supporting country readiness for COVID-19 vaccine roll out, together with WHO and Gavi, while supporting the strengthening of health systems. This includes providing commodities needed for safe vaccine administration, such as cold chain equipment, personal protective equipment, and hand hygiene (soap and hand sanitizer), operational costs for vaccine delivery and associated technical assistance. Crucially, this also includes support for vaccine delivery to humanitarian populations. The seven support areas are in alignment with the categories of National Deployment and Vaccination Plans and include: planning and coordination, prioritization and targeting, service delivery, training, monitoring and evaluation, vaccine cold-chain and logistics, communication and community engagement. Funding and results from the ACT-A / COVAX HAC appeal are reported through a separate global [ACT-A situation report](#).

Regional Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

The number of confirmed cases and deaths from COVID-19 in EAP have risen sharply over the past three months. Since the beginning of the pandemic, 6,210,531 positive cases and 119,440 deaths have been confirmed in the region, with Indonesia (2,379,397 cases) and the Philippines (1,445,832 cases) being the most affected. Countries across the region are racing to vaccinate their populations against COVID-19, however the speed of transmission by COVID-19 variants is outpacing the rate of vaccination in many countries. A combined approach of supporting vaccine roll-out while continuing to focus on efforts to contain the spread of the virus and respond to the social-economic impacts of the pandemic is needed in order to save lives and alleviate suffering, especially for children.

Due to the increasing cases of COVID-19, many EAP countries reclosed some or all of their schools between the beginning of April and the end of June. All schools closed in Cambodia, Fiji, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Mongolia and Thailand affecting 26 million children (Cambodia: 2.8m, Fiji: 0.2m, Lao PDR: 1.7m, Malaysia: 6.7m, Mongolia: 0.7m, Thailand: 13.9m). Schools were able to partially reopen in Thailand in areas less affected by the new wave of COVID-19 (non-Maximum Controlled Areas). Schools in the Philippines (hosting 24.9m children) have remained closed since the end of March 2020, making it one of the last countries globally with schools continuously closed for face-to-face learning. Schools in Indonesia (hosting 62.3m children) are officially permitted to reopen pending meeting safety requirements, but UNICEF data show that the majority of schools remain closed for face-to-face learning. Schools in Myanmar (hosting 9.5m children) have officially reopened, but enrolment and attendance are reportedly very low in the face of a rising number of COVID-19 cases as well as the security and political crisis.

During school closures, UNICEF continues to support the continuity of learning through multiple modes of distance learning including through the establishment of online platforms, the dissemination of TV and radio programmes and the distribution of print materials. UNICEF is also supporting teachers and parents in the facilitation of learning-at-home activities. In many countries where schools reopened (fully or partially) reports indicate many children not enrolling (e.g. Indonesia, Thailand) or not attending schools upon reopening (e.g. Malaysia). These problems are expected to increase the longer school closures last. Many countries (e.g. Cambodia, Indonesia, Mongolia, Thailand) across the region have started to vaccinate teachers as a priority group in an effort to facilitate the reopening of schools. Some countries (e.g. Mongolia) across the region are also considering or are already vaccinating school children.

The pandemic is also exacerbating risks to child protection. New [evidence](#) from Cambodia indicates an increase in online child sexual abuse and exploitation in the first quarter of 2021. The NGO APL, a UNICEF Cambodia partner, has received reports of 30 cases of online child exploitation so far this year, including instances of sharing of child sexual abuse materials. The rate of such reports received by APL has doubled in the first quarter of 2021 as compared to 2020, when APL received 65 such reports over the course of the entire year. The increasing prevalence of child sexual abuse materials originating in the Philippines was also [highlighted](#). According to the Philippine Justice Department, 1.29 million

¹ UNICEF also received some multi-year contributions which go beyond the duration of the HAC. The total amount received including carry-forward from 2020 and new multi-year grants for 2022/2023 is **US\$ 47.2 million**.

explicit videos and photos of children were posted online in 2020, a threefold increase from 2019. In Indonesia, the increasing rate of child marriage during COVID-19 was [highlighted](#). During 2020, 64,000 girls were married, more than double the rate in 2019.

Meanwhile, the adverse socio-economic impact of the pandemic continues to drive millions of children into extreme destitution and livelihood insecurity. An estimated 6.2 million children in EAP are affected by wasting, with 1.7 million of these being severely wasted. Child wasting is likely to be most impacted by COVID-19 in the short term, with an estimated 500,000 children becoming wasted due to health and nutrition service delivery disruptions and negative economic impacts of the pandemic.

The pandemic is also exacerbating the vulnerability of families to natural hazards, such as typhoons and floods, and protracted humanitarian situations due to unresolved conflict and political instability. In Timor-Leste, heavy rains 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 floods, which took place in the context of rising COVID-19 cases in Timor-Leste, caused 48 fatalities and affected 30,367 households across the country. Of those, 81% (24,674 households) are in Dili municipality. In April 2021, UNICEF identified the need for US\$ 2,060,000 to sustain provision of life-saving and immediate essential services for women and children and support early recovery in Timor-Leste. With US\$ 900,000 received, UNICEF and partners have been supporting the government led response, however, more resources are urgently needed to respond to humanitarian needs in the different sectors and throughout the country, in line with the recently issued [Joint Appeal & Flood Response Plan](#) of the government and humanitarian partners. Further details can be found in the latest Timor-Leste floods [situation report](#).

Myanmar has fallen deeper into a situation of armed conflict and targeted violence, exacerbating pre-existing vulnerabilities and pushing a growing number of children into situation of humanitarian needs. As of 24 June, an estimated 177,500 people, including 103,500 people in Kayah state have been displaced in south-eastern parts of Myanmar. Armed clashes between Chinland Defence Forces and Myanmar Armed Forces in Chin state resulted in more than 20,000 people displaced in more than 100 displacement sites in Chin State, Magway, and Sagaing regions. A total of 11,650 people have been internally displaced in Kachin state: more than 10,200 of them remain displaced ([OCHA](#)). On 28 June, UNHCR published an [overview map for displacement](#) with the number of internally displaced persons (IDP) since February 2021. Further details on the situation in Myanmar and UNICEF's response can be found in a separate [situation report](#) dedicated to the Myanmar 2021 HAC appeal.

Regional Humanitarian Strategy, Partnerships and Coordination

To respond to shocks and stresses amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, UNICEF focuses on enhancing the emergency preparedness and response capabilities of country offices, government counterparts and partners by establishing adequate preparedness measures and providing technical expertise and strengthening systems for child-sensitive and inclusive humanitarian action. UNICEF also strengthens risk-informed programming to address both the immediate and longer-term impacts of crises. This includes sustaining the delivery of life-saving interventions in chronic protracted humanitarian situations by providing basic and essential humanitarian supplies in line with global standards; strengthening the timely and effective delivery of essential health, nutrition and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services, especially for the most vulnerable children under five years and pregnant and lactating women; and building the capacities of local service providers and caregivers. This also includes analysing multi-dimensional risks and threats to children; integrating disaster risk reduction and climate change strategies into development plans; and building inclusive shock-responsive social protection systems.

UNICEF also strengthens the integration of cross-sectoral efforts to address the needs of children with disabilities, adolescents, women and girls in humanitarian settings, focusing on gender-based violence services, accountability to affected populations and the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse in emergencies. To ensure greater predictability and accountability in humanitarian settings and learn from previous emergencies, including the COVID-19 response, UNICEF expands knowledge management efforts and advances humanitarian innovations.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, UNICEF continues to support governments and communities to control the spread of the virus and minimize morbidity and mortality, including by enhancing preparedness for the possible second and third waves of COVID-19. In addition, UNICEF addresses the socio-economic impacts of the pandemic in the region by restoring children's mental and physical well-being in the areas of health, nutrition, WASH, child protection, education and social protection, focusing on the most vulnerable. This is done in line with the concept of 'building back better' to ensure clear linkages between the humanitarian response and longer-term development efforts.

At the regional and country levels, UNICEF is coordinating efforts to reduce transmission and mitigate the impacts of COVID-19 with national authorities, UN and partners, including WHO, IFRC, national Centres for Diseases Control, NGOs, community-based organisations, and the private sector. To assess the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19 on children and women, UNICEF is coordinating with multiple agencies at the regional and national level. With the support of UNICEF's EAP regional office, country offices developed a regional response plan aligned with the WHO COVID-19 Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan, the UN Global Humanitarian Response Plan as well as the UN Framework for the Immediate Socio-economic response to COVID-19.

Summary of UNICEF's Response Actions in the Region:

The following response actions are in relation to the EAP 2021 HAC appeal which includes UNICEF's response in Cambodia, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Mongolia, the Pacific (Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu), Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Thailand, Timor-Leste and Viet Nam. Results from UNICEF's response to the situation in Myanmar and the COVID-19 vaccine roll-out across the region are reported under dedicated situation reports.

Nutrition

UNICEF is supporting governments to provide life-saving nutrition interventions in response the pandemic and other emergencies. During the reporting period, UNICEF provided **17,826 children aged 6 to 59 months** with treatment for severe acute malnutrition (only 5% of targeted children) and provided **10 million children and adolescents** with messages on healthy diets.

- In **Indonesia**, UNICEF continued to demonstrate technical leadership in maintaining essential nutrition services during the pandemic. To protect, promote and support breastfeeding amidst COVID-19 pandemic, UNICEF collaborated with the Breastfeeding Mothers (AIMI) and Fathers (AyahASI) Associations to support the Ministry of Health in establishing the first-ever national online platform to report violations against the International Code of marketing of breastmilk substitutes and subsequent World Health Assembly resolutions in Indonesia. Just a few days after the launch of this platform, a total of 133 cases of Code violations were reported by the public, which were compiled and shared with the Ministry of Health and Food and Drug Association for follow-up actions. Moving forward, UNICEF will continue efforts to raise awareness about this platform particularly at subnational levels to improve coverage and use.
- In **DPRK**, the prolonged border closure in DPRK due to COVID-19 prevention measures has placed the implementation of nutrition programmes in DPRK in a challenging situation. An estimated 140,000 children under-five suffer from severe acute malnutrition annually. UNICEF and the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) reprioritized the use of dwindling in-country supplies to ensure the most critically ill children and those at highest risk of dying were able to receive treatment. Despite these efforts, the utilization report from the community-based management of acute malnutrition (CMAM) sites at the end of May, the remaining stock levels has reduced further and may not last until end of July. As a result, the treatment of severe acute malnutrition may come to a complete stop with a dire consequence of increased risk of malnutrition. This is an unprecedented situation in DPRK. Micronutrient powders and Vitamin A are already out of stock since November 2020 with alarmingly very small stocks at facilities with some already running out of supplies with an estimated annual target of 95,000 under-five children in need of malnutrition treatment services. In May 2021, MoPH conducted the first round of the biannual Child Health Day event targeting about 1.6 million under-five children with only nutrition and health messages and screening for malnutrition but no Vitamin A and Multiple Micronutrient Powders were distributed due to the stockout.
- In the **Philippines**, during the reporting period, UNICEF supported the training of additional 36 community health workers (Barangay Nutrition Scholars) and nutrition focal points on Family Mid-Upper Arm Circumference Approach – Training of Trainers to ensure screening and prevention of acute malnutrition is continued. A total of 6,028 children (2,954 boys and 3,074 girls) with severe acute malnutrition have been admitted to treatment across the country during the reporting period.

Health

UNICEF is supporting governments and communities to control the spread of the COVID-19 and restore essential health services from the impact of the pandemic and other emergencies, in order to minimize morbidity and mortality. During the reporting period, UNICEF provided access to primary health care for **1.5 million children and women** and vaccinated **5.3 million children** against measles.

- In the **Philippines**, UNICEF provided 5,000 sets of personal protective equipment to the Department of Health Metro Manila to augment supplies necessary for responding to COVID-19 surges between March and April. A total of nine tents were also provided to key health facilities in the National Capital Region and Region 3 to provide additional space to care for COVID-19 cases and maintain infection prevention and control standards. UNICEF also supported the completion of the national measles and polio vaccination campaigns in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, vaccinating 4,497,597 against measles and 4,140,582 children against polio.
- In **DPRK**, border closures continue to restrict the implementation of the health programme with health supplies and commodities blocked at the border and in various supplier warehouses in India, Copenhagen, and China. The country has been stocked out of OPV vaccines since October 2020 and a few more recently in May 2021, stockouts have also been experienced for all EPI antigens at the Central level with the exception of Hepatitis B vaccines which will stock out in August 2021. Adult TB drugs, TB diagnostics and Malaria insecticides are also currently out of stock. These stockouts pose an imminent risk to outbreaks of vaccine preventable diseases, drug resistant tuberculosis and malaria if the situation remains unchanged. Due to continued border closures, internationally recruited personnel are unable to enter the country which has effectively suspended planned capacity buildings and activities requiring onsite external technical assistance. Programme assurance and monitoring continue to pose a challenge as field monitoring visits have been suspended since January 2020.

WASH

UNICEF is supporting governments, health workers, schools and communities to promote hygiene and ensure children and their families essential WASH services and supplies, including handwashing with soap and essential personal hygiene practices and menstrual supplies for women and girls. During the reporting period, UNICEF provided over **1.7 million people** with critical water, sanitation and hygiene supplies (including hygiene items) and services. UNICEF also provided **421,358 people** with access to appropriately designed hygiene and sanitation facilities.

- In **Cambodia**, 15,140 people (8,056 females) received hygiene supplies, including sanitary pads, during the reporting period. This included 10,000 people in 'red zones' under lockdown in Phnom Penh and 5,140 people in 50 quarantine sites in the provinces of Kandal, Prey Veng, and Kampong Cham.
- In **DPRK**, UNICEF continues leading the WASH sector working group remotely together with IFRC and Concern Worldwide. In the current operational context, UNICEF is focusing on three priorities to sustain the delivery of life-saving interventions in the WASH including (1) continue support on emergency preparedness, and response (2) completion of on-going activities carried over from 2020 (3) remote technical support. However, with the border closed for supplies it is difficult to make further progress on these areas.
- In **Lao PDR**, to facilitate the safe return of children back to school following the 2021 lockdown, over 105,000 bars of soap have been procured and distributed to Early Childhood Education Centers and Primary Schools throughout Lao PDR. This soap will enable teachers in to provide safe handwashing, as well as enabling teachers to teach and reinforce good handwashing practices. The soap is currently being distributed to schools in preparation for the return to school following the 2021 lockdown. Whilst exact figures of recipients are not yet available, indicatively, this soap will be provided to over 4,000 schools (with over 300,000 school children).
- In **Malaysia**, due to the prolonged movement control order, UNICEF expanded its support to alternative learning centres in Sabah and refugee schools in Klang Valley, covering 3,012 children and their families with essential hygiene supplies including reusable sanitary pads during the reporting period. To date, 104,002 people (children and their families) from undocumented communities in Sabah, detainees in Immigration Detention Centre, and refugee schools in Klang valley, and low-cost flats in Kuala Lumpur have received essential hygiene kits and health education sessions. A total of 311,904 face masks, 57,542 soaps, 4,200 hand sanitizers (500ml), 368 contactless thermometers, 4,600 reusable sanitary pads, and 500 clothes have been distributed across the country and 60 handwashing station were installed at alternative learning centres in Sabah.
- In **Mongolia**, a [guidebook](#) on COVID-19 prevention and response activities for schools and kindergartens was developed and disseminated in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Science, WASH Action of Mongolia and Save the Children. Essential WASH supplies including hand-soaps, hand-sanitizers, disinfectant materials, drinking water purifiers were provided to around 1,550 targeted frontline staff working at health care facilities, schools and communities in four provinces (Bayankhongor, Gobi-Altai, Zavkhan and Umnugobi) and Bayanzurkh district of Ulaanbaatar city.
- In the **Federated States of Micronesia (FSM)**, over 540 children and youth participated in the celebration of Menstrual Day 2021 organized by College of Micronesia with support from UNICEF and Department of Health and Social Affairs (DHSA). The theme of this event was "menstruation does not stop even during pandemic". In addition, a total of 2,500 sets of WASH-in-school supplies were handed over to Department of Education on 9 April 2021. These supplies will be distributed to all schools in FSM in August 2021 when schools re-open, benefiting up to 20,000 children. UNICEF and DHSA also distributed 300 units of automatic hand sanitizer dispensers to 100 strategic public facilities (healthcare facilities, religious facilities, and strategic public service facilities), benefiting over 5,000 people (about 50% of them are children).
- In the **Philippines**, the UNICEF Mindanao Field Office responded to displacements due to armed conflict in Maguindanao province from the third week of March 2021. UNICEF with its CSO partner, Mindanao Organization for Social and Economic Progress provided family hygiene and dignity kits, water kits, and constructed emergency sanitation facilities in key evacuation sites in the municipality of Datu Saudi Ampatuan (where most of the IDPs stayed). Water quality monitoring was also conducted including hygiene promotion sessions in the evacuation sites.
- In **Thailand**, in early May, UNICEF ramped up support to help curb the surge in COVID-19 cases in Klongtoey, Bangkok's largest low-income community, through Klongtoey D Jung and the CBO working in the community to reach more than 29,000 disadvantaged children and families through distributing 20,000 sets of hygiene kits, each hygiene kits consist of soap, hand sanitizers, alcohol spray, disposable masks, and information booklet on how to take care of children and families during the outbreak. In addition, 400 galloon of disinfectants and 1,300 gallons of alcohol spray was provided to use in cleaning the communities. Two thousand sets of toys, learning supplies, and UHT milk were also distributed.

Child Protection, GBViE and PSEA

UNICEF is working with implementing partners to strengthen mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) for children and adolescents, including dedicated child-friendly helplines for children. UNICEF continues to provide technical leadership and support in child protection sector coordination, ensures continuity of child protection services during COVID-19, and strengthens child protection in emergencies, gender-based violence in emergencies (GBViE), and prevention of sexual abuse and exploitation (PSEA) measures to better protect children and women. During the reporting period, UNICEF supported **69,858 children and caregivers** in accessing mental health and psychosocial support and over **4 million women, girls and boys** in accessing gender-based violence risk mitigation, prevention or response interventions. UNICEF also helped reunify **8,398 unaccompanied and separated children** with their primary caregiver or provided the children with family-based care/alternative care services.

- In **Cambodia**, UNICEF established a partnership with Child Helpline Cambodia to provide mental health and psychosocial support through direct counselling and referral to specialised child protection services. Since May 2021, a total of 192 boys, 350 girls, 186 men and 706 women have accessed mental health support through Child Helpline Cambodia. Ten children (six females) and seven adults (six females) were referred for specialised services by the partner. Additional mental health support is planned to start from the next quarter through partner Partnership Programme for the Protection of Children (3PC).
- In **Indonesia**, a total of 832 children (482 girls, 350 boys) in Central Java, including 49 children with disabilities, attended life skills education training to increase their knowledge on protective behavioural practices. The training was conducted by 150 children (111 girls, 39 boys) who are skilled facilitators on life skills education and are also members of various organizations, including the Children's Forum (Forum Anak), GENRE (Generation yang Punya Rencana, a government-initiated adolescent-focused sexual reproductive health platform) and Komunitas Sahabat Difabel (an association for young people living with disabilities). In East Java, CSO partners trained 749 children (542 girls, 199 boys) as peer educators. The Training of Trainers and support for outreach aims to create a safer and more friendly environment for children.
- In the **Philippines**, UNICEF continues to support the nationwide helpline of the Philippine Red Cross. A total of 6,837 callers were provided assistance on psychosocial support and case management from 1 April to 21 June 2021 (472 boys, 602 girls, 2,531 men, 3,232 women). To date, 24,832 individuals were assisted since 1 January (2,148 boys, 1,964 girls, 13,280 men, 7,440 women). This data includes the individuals reached through chat-based modality on Facebook as initiated in December, to reach adolescents and young adults, who are not accessing the phone-based hotline.
- In **Papua New Guinea**, UNICEF's assistance to Child Fund Helpline continues. During the period between April and May 2021, a total of 52 children (17 males, 35 females, 2 unspecified) were assisted with mental health and psychosocial support through the Helpline).
- In **Thailand**, UNICEF and the Department of Children and Youth (DCY), have adapted UNICEF's global guidelines to support the Thai authorities and all relevant stakeholders in minimizing family separation and promoting family unity when implementing COVID-19 quarantine and isolation measures. UNICEF and DCY also discussed on possibility to apply guideline on children, isolation and quarantine to preventing family separation during the COVID-19 with children staying with extended or foster families.
- In **Timor-Leste**, UNICEF provided technical assistance and support to the Ministry of Social Solidarity (MSSI) and the Child Protection Officer to respond to the situation of children in isolation and quarantine facilities as well as children separated from their family's quarantine. UNICEF has delivered 50 kits of materials for children in isolation facilities to play and do mindfulness activities while in the COVID-19 isolation facilities. UNICEF also established child-friendly spaces to deliver MHPSS to support children in 13 COVID-19 evacuation centres and during times of lockdown, reaching over 1,100 children. UNICEF trained 60 volunteers to develop these activities.
- Convened by UNICEF **East Asia and Pacific Regional Office (EAPRO)** with UNCHR, CPAoR, Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action, Save the Children, Plan International and World Vision, the Regional Launch of the Child Protection Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Action (CPMS) took place from 22-24 June 2021 reaching over 220 child protection and humanitarian actors and partners to increase awareness of the 2019 edition CPMS and explore how the CPMS can be used to prevent and respond to child protection risks, while also strengthening child protection systems in humanitarian settings. In addition, EAPRO's eight-part Child Protection in Emergencies Learning Series built the capacity of 66 participants on adapting and implementing the Humanitarian Programme Cycle, identifying and analysing child protection risks/needs in emergencies, working across sectors for child protection in emergencies and more.
- COVID-19 and ensuing containment measures have significantly increased time spent online by children and adolescents. While it has been a lifeline to learn, play and socialize, children have also face increased risks in the online world, including online grooming. As part of a regional initiative to build the evidence base on what works to promote protective behaviours amongst children, **UNICEF Cambodia**, together with **UNICEF EAPRO**, APLE Cambodia, Western Sydney University and 17 Triggers, launched [Let's Chat Campaign](#). This campaign was designed on the basis of a new Theory of Change for online behaviour change and aims to support young people to identify safe and unsafe risks or relationships online and take action to mitigate risk. This campaign will also be used to test a new Evaluation Framework to measure impact of online campaigns.

Education

UNICEF is supporting governments to ensure the continuity of learning through safe and inclusive school operations. During the reporting period, UNICEF supported **134,179 schools** to implement safe school protocols and more than **31 million children** with access to formal or non-formal education, including early learning. UNICEF also supported **166,074 children with disabilities** with access to learning.

- In **Cambodia**, as part of Cambodia's Global Partnership for Education (GPE) COVID-19 response programme, UNICEF purchased and distributed 1,640 radios for multilingual education (MLE) students to enable them to continue distance learning. A snapshot study in May 2021 found that 91% of MLE students used the radios to listen to educational programmes at least twice a week.
- In **Malaysia**, UNICEF is strengthening teacher capacity through Massive Online Learning Course (MOOC)/Teacher Digital Learning Community via MOE Google Classroom platform with MOE and Arus: <https://sites.google.com/moe-dl.edu.my/ldp-digital-learning/home> (with accessibility features for learners and teachers with disabilities) to maintain

continuity of student learning on the MOE digital learning platform (DELIMa) - also available to teachers from refugee schools and alternative learning centres. Content has been accessed by 3,632 teachers from 2,088 schools of which 49 per cent are non-urban/rural schools, with a reach of over 100,000. The platform includes a resource bank of over 1,570 resources in 25 different formats curated from teachers who have completed the MOOC; and have received over 30,000 views: <https://sites.google.com/moe-dl.edu.my/banksumberkgdl/laman-utama?authuser=5>

- In **Mongolia**, to address the learning needs of disadvantaged children including the children from herder families in remote areas as well as those who do not have access to TV and online platform during school and kindergarten closure, 30 audio lessons have been developed using teaching by storytelling method. In order to reach the target children, emergency radio receiver with audio playback function have been procured and distributed to target children. In addition, the contents were disseminated through Mongolian National Radio, Ministry of Education and Science main education portal-econtent.edu.mn as well as Marchaahai – application for children contents. As a result, at least 15,000 children have accessed the audio lessons. These contents are designed for pre-primary education children of age 4-5 and primary education children of age 6-7. In addition, workbooks targeting grade 1 and 2 students have been developed and distributed to support home-based learning of 30,000 children.
- In **Fiji**, during the current period of school closure, UNICEF and partners are supporting the Ministry of Education, Heritage and Arts with strategies to allow teaching and learning to continue through online platforms, as well as to prepare for the safe re-opening of schools following the Fiji Safe, Healthy and Protective Learning Environment guidelines developed previously with UNICEF support. Support for remote learning includes development of resources, technical advice on online platforms and the provision of guidance and support to assist teachers, parents and students adapt to the new learning platforms. As part of the safe school operation, 78 education officers, school heads and councillors attended a two-day training of trainers on safe, healthy and protective learning environment in schools. These trained trainers will conduct similar trainings to teachers and school heads in their divisions.
- In **Papua New Guinea**, to support the recovery of over 200 hours of lost instruction time over two periods of school closure, booster packs have been created by the Curriculum Development Division. Booster packs support teachers in effective assessment and differentiated remediation. Approximately 300,000 (including 132,000 girls) students will benefit from sector and grade specific Booster packs. All academic materials are developed in line with the National Department of Education Standards Based Curriculum.
- In **Thailand**, With UNICEF's support, almost 8,500 boys and girls from 63 Migrant Learning Centers (MLCs) in Tak received support to engage in home-based learning (HBL). However, even during the time where HBL was halted as teachers could not travel into the communities to deliver classes, every MLC worked to conduct learning in different modalities as the situation and their facilities permitted. Variety of learning modes had been employed: multi-grade learning in groups; in-person learning; on-line learning; as well as having teachers print learning materials and drop them off for children in their communities.
- In **Viet Nam**, UNICEF continues to support the Ministry of Education and Training in monitoring and addressing the impacts of COVID-19 on learning and well-being of students in 2021. UNICEF-supported safe school protocols continue to be implemented and operationalized as Viet Nam experienced its third and fourth of COVID-19 in 2021.

Social Protection and Cash Transfers

UNICEF has stepped up its technical support on social protection for a timely response to mitigate the economic impact of the new COVID-19 waves on the most vulnerable groups. With UNICEF technical support, several countries have maintained (e.g. Mongolia or Indonesia) and even expanded (e.g. Cambodia) previous social protection emergency measures. Others, like Thailand, have advocated for design tweaks to account for the additional "burden of care" for families with children. UNICEF continues with policy advocacy efforts to ensure any future relief measures will consider the socio-economic impacts faced by families with children. Routine social protection programmes have been also hampered by new lockdowns. In Lao PDR for example, movement restrictions across the country made necessary a remote identification and enrolment of beneficiaries of the new Maternal and Early Childhood Grant.

During the reporting period, UNICEF provided technical assistance and advocacy to governments, which benefited over **4.2 million households** who received new or additional cash transfers.

- In **Cambodia**, UNICEF continued to support the government in implementing the cash transfer programme for disadvantaged and vulnerable families affected by COVID-19. By the end of the reporting period, 733,741 IDPoor (a poverty identification programme in Cambodia) households received the cash transfers, against a target of 751,193 households. In addition, in order to address the impacts of the lockdown in Phnom Penh, Sihanoukville and Takhmao in April and May, UNICEF supported the government to develop and deliver a Post-lockdown Cash Transfer programme covering 160,000 vulnerable families. The programme provides near-poor households in vulnerable occupations with a one-off cash transfer to compensate for a loss of income during the lockdown.
- In **Indonesia**, UNICEF continues to support government in developing guidelines for increasing coverage and benefits of unconditional cash transfers of a poverty-focused child grant program during COVID-19 in four government social protection programmes that target 42 million households: Family Hope Program (10 million household) (MOSA); Food Assistance Program (20 million household) (MOSA); Unconditional Cash Transfer (8 million household) (Ministry of Village (MOV), Disadvantage Region and Transmigration); and Cash for Work Program (4 million households) (MOV, Disadvantage Region and Transmigration).
- In **Lao PDR**, the Mother and Early Childhood Grant, a social protection pilot, was launched virtually in the presence of high-level government officials from the national and subnational level and development partners. Training of health workers has commenced on data collection and registration of pregnant women and children under six

months. To date, about 600 pregnant women and children are registered. As part of the remote rollout, UNICEF supported the development of radio jingles and brochures to support the awareness creation of pilot eligibility and use of cash.

- In **Malaysia**, the final report on [Families on the Edge](#) was published in May 2021 – almost exactly a year after the first COVID-19 Movement Control Order came into force in the country. The report provides data on a large number of indicators, including the effectiveness of social protection, that have been tracked over the course of the project, while also providing insights on the future prospects for the participant families. The report also provides indicative policy recommendations for consideration by the Government of Malaysia and other stakeholders.

C4D, Community Engagement and AAP

UNICEF is providing accurate life-saving information on COVID-19 through communication for development (C4D) and community engagement. UNICEF is also engaged with beneficiaries to ensure accountability to affected populations (AAP) through the seven pillars of [UNICEF's AAP Framework](#), which include: participation, information and communication, feedback and complaints, protection from sexual exploitation and abuse, strengthening local capacity, evidence-based advocacy and decision-making, and coordination and participation. The Regional Office is in the process recruiting a regional AAP expert to help operationalize the AAP component of its ongoing response across the region. During the reporting period, **UNICEF reached 302 million people** through messaging on key life-saving behaviours and access to services.

- In **Indonesia**, UNICEF's communication team continues to have embedded staff in the Government's Committee for the COVID-19 Response and National Economic Recovery (abbreviated as KPC-PEN). They provide direct support to national and subnational authorities, including the Ministry of Health, on all aspects of risk communication and community engagement in order to increase public acceptance of the COVID-19 vaccine and promote key preventive behaviours. During this reporting period, UNICEF facilitated bi-weekly national press briefings, including inquiries from media, and supported content production, talk shows, dialogues, webinars, and live programmes. In addition, UNICEF supported the creation of SMS messages reaching 200 million people with COVID-19 related messages on a weekly basis, in collaboration with Mobile Network Operators and the COVID-19 task force (SATGAS COVID-19). UNICEF also supported the management and content creation for the Government's COVID-19 website (www.covid19.go.id), which reached 3.2 million people in the reporting period (10.9 million since January 2021), with 6.8 million pageviews (21.2 million since January 2021).
- In **Lao PDR**, during the reporting period, the social media campaign - #VaccinateLaos - promoting uptake of COVID-19 vaccination and aiming to build trust in safety and effectiveness of the vaccines was launched in collaboration with Ministry of Health's Centre for Communication and Education on Health (CCEH) and WHO. The content was shared via CCEH Facebook pages and platforms of other bi-lateral organizations working in Lao PDR. The campaign had a reach of more than 1 million within the first week of its launch.
- In **Timor-Leste**, UNICEF supported the Ministry of Health to conduct a second round of an online survey on perceptions on the COVID-19 vaccine, to support decision-making on vaccine roll-out and messaging. As per the preliminary results, vaccine hesitancy has declined, and the Ministry of Health remains the most trusted source of information regarding the vaccine.
- In **Viet Nam**, in responses to the fourth wave of COVID-19 in late April 2021, with thousands of new cases in more than 50 provinces, UNICEF efforts on social media focused on the issues of: key COVID-19 preventive behaviours, quarantine protocol for children - children protection in quarantine centres, and child injury prevention at home in the COVID context.

Cross-cutting sectors, e.g. Early Childhood Development, Disability, Gender, Adolescent

UNICEF's response focuses on reaching the most vulnerable children and adolescents, including those living in low-income settings, children living with disabilities, migrant children and children of ethnic minorities.

- In **Indonesia**, UNICEF is supporting skills development programmes to empower young people to become active citizens. 5,470 adolescents (57 per cent girls) were involved in an innovation challenge to propose solutions to issues affecting them in their lives. Adolescents submitted 1,018 solutions, including: an app to help students during remote learning, an app to support a COVID-19 patient looking for healthcare, a game to teach young people about COVID-19 health protocols in interactive ways and an app to support students with hearing impairments using a transcriber during remote learning. A selection of the most promising teams was made in April and currently, 42 teams made up of 521 adolescents (58 per cent female) are participating in a bootcamp that will run until early September. During this time, they will further refine their ideas and present to private sector and government partners later in October 2021.
- In **Lao PDR**, production of Season 2 of the special early childhood development (ECD) TV programme [My House](#)² with 12 new episodes is underway. My House promotes physical, cognitive, social and emotional development of children and engages family members to support young children's learning and development in a fun, interactive way. The show also integrates COVID-19 prevention messages. All episodes include sign language interpretation. Storybooks based on My House Season 1 have been developed and are being printed for dissemination to pre-schools, ECE centers and Grades 1 and 2 classes across the country. Season 1 of My House with 10 episodes

² www.unicef.org/laos/stories/my-house

(with sign language) was released in 2020 and shown on several TV channels, shared online and is available on Khang Panya Lao.

- In **Mongolia**, UNICEF organized a virtual campaign named “from Awareness to Action; let’s keep our mind healthy!”, in partnership with the youth volunteers and with the Family, Child, and Youth Development Department (the Implementing Agency of the Governor of the Capital City Ulaanbaatar) in May. This campaign aimed to support the mental health of youth volunteers and their friends, peers, and family members. Around 400 youth volunteers (93% female and 7% male) were activated through this online campaign and directly reached 3,488 people through digital platforms and social media.
- In **Fiji**, UNICEF is working with the Pacific Disability Forum (PDF) to carry out surveys in the Central, Western and Northern divisions on WASH accessibility in schools, community evacuation centres and public places. PDF managed to interview more than 300 persons with disability and carried out 35 WASH audits in schools, community evacuation centres and public places with the plan to retrofit some of these existing WASH facilities.
- In **Papua New Guinea**, there have been 69 televised lessons that were translated in to sign language for children living with hearing impairment or deafness. Sign language interpretation for pre-recorded lessons is ongoing. The inclusion of sign in televised lessons has had an important secondary impact, raising student and teacher awareness around Melanesian Sign Language, the profile of the country’s deaf community and overall importance of inclusion.
- In **Thailand**, due to prolonged closures of ECD centres in high-risk areas of Bangkok and the vicinity due to the third wave of COVID-19, UNICEF has begun distributing Magic Boxes (ECD kits) containing books, toys and learning materials as well as parental guidelines to help keep young children engaged in learning activities at home. With the cooperation of the Department of Local Administration, Magic Boxes are expected to reach 2,500 children in five provinces (Nontaburi, Samutprakarn, Chonburi, Surat Thani, Chiang Mai) which are identified as COVID-19 Red Zones. In addition, 1,000 Magic Boxes were also distributed to vulnerable young children via the Foundation for Slum Child Care, and some will be distributed via UNICEF ECD Demonstration Centres in Bangkok.
- In **Timor-Leste**, UNICEF supported adolescent civic participation during the emergency response to the April 2021 floods. This was integrated with a strong focus on COVID-19 prevention through the distribution of masks and hand sanitizer, along with other non-food items, to support adolescents and youth who had self-mobilized to help vulnerable families clean their homes.
- In **Viet Nam**, as part of the flood response, UNICEF procured and distributed 900 emergency ECD kits prioritizing the most affected students and schools, mainly the remotely located satellite schools. A total of 900 ECD kits were distributed in April 2021, benefiting 45,000 children in four provinces namely Quang Binh, Quang Tri, Thua Thien Hue and Quang Nam. The educational supplies contributed to the continuation of quality and stimulating learning environment for the most affected children. UNICEF also acted as a crucial government partner by co-leading the education in emergencies sector with Save the Children and supporting the Minister of Education and Training in effectively coordinating the emergency response, such as facilitating information sharing and mapping partner interventions to avoid activity overlaps and duplication of efforts, thus strengthening advocacy and boosting resource mobilization to ensure continued learning and safety of affected.

Internal and External Media

- UN News, [Child mental health crisis ‘magnified’ by COVID, warns UN chief](#), 8 July 2021
- CGTN, [COVID-19: Thailand’s school dropout rate soars](#), 8 July 2021
- UN News, [COVID death toll passes 4 million: Global Vaccine Plan essential, declares Guterres](#), 7 July 2021
- Vietnam Net, [Vietnamese children need safer environment in cyberspace](#), 7 July 2021
- UN News, [Generation Equality: Alongside COVID lies an ‘equally horrific pandemic’ threatening women](#), 29 June 2021
- Generation Unlimited, [Mongolian Youth Volunteers bring positive change through Mental Health Campaign](#), 21 June 2021
- UNICEF, [Protecting children from the most-deadly infectious disease in Indonesia](#), 21 June 2021
- UNICEF, [Young people at the forefront of flood-recovery efforts in Timor-Leste](#), 14 June 2021
- UNICEF, [School reopening can’t wait](#), 10 June 2021
- UNICEF, [Protecting children in Cambodia’s COVID “red zones”](#), 29 May 2021
- UNICEF, [Empowering girls to take control of their periods during the pandemic](#), 12 May 2021
- UNICEF, [My House: Early Childhood Development TV series](#), 27 April 2021

Next Situation Report: 8 October 2021

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Annex A: Summary of Selected Programme Results

Areas of Response	2021 target	Total UNICEF Results	Increase from last SitRep
Nutrition			
Number of children aged 6 to 59 months with severe acute malnutrition admitted for treatment	357,115	17,826	▲ 8,816
Number of children and adolescents receiving messages on healthy diets	20,000,000	10,040,513	▲ 3,483,768
Health			
Number of children and women accessing primary health care in UNICEF-supported facilities	7,138,000	1,501,054	▲ 1,119,000
Number of children vaccinated against measles	14,493,000	5,358,723	▲ 462,535
WASH			
Number of people reached with critical water, sanitation and hygiene supplies (including hygiene items) and services	6,200,000	1,736,592	▲ 374,955
Number of people provided with access to appropriately designed hygiene and sanitation facilities	932,420	421,358	▲ 162,396
Child Protection, GBViE and PSEA			
Number of children and caregivers accessing mental health and psychosocial support**	6,468,700	69,858	▲ 11,075
Number of women, girls and boys accessing gender-based violence risk mitigation, prevention or response interventions	7,200,000*	4,043,653	▲ 15,333
Number of unaccompanied and separated children reunified with their primary caregiver or provided with family-based care/alternative care services	34,800	8,398	▲ 1,346
Education			
Number of schools implementing safe school protocols	213,914	134,179	▲ 21,561
Number of children accessing formal or non-formal education, including early learning	29,171,000	31,898,097	▲ 9,850,171
Number of children with disabilities supported with access to learning	120,000	166,074	▲ 156,795
Social Protection and Cash Transfers			
Number of households benefiting from new or additional social transfers	7,469,000	4,282,086	▲ 33,146
C4D, Community Engagement and AAP			
Number of people reached through messaging on key life-saving behaviours and access to services***	312,000,000	302,099,769	▲ 31,254,953

*Targets have increased due to UNICEF's emergency responses to flooding and cyclones in Viet Nam, Philippines, and the Pacific, as well as second and third waves of COVID-19 in several countries across the region.

**The activity includes all direct and indirect MHPSS interventions ranging from individual and group counselling to large scale MHPSS messaging.

***As the same person might be reached through several channels more than once, targets and results have factored the possibility of double counting.

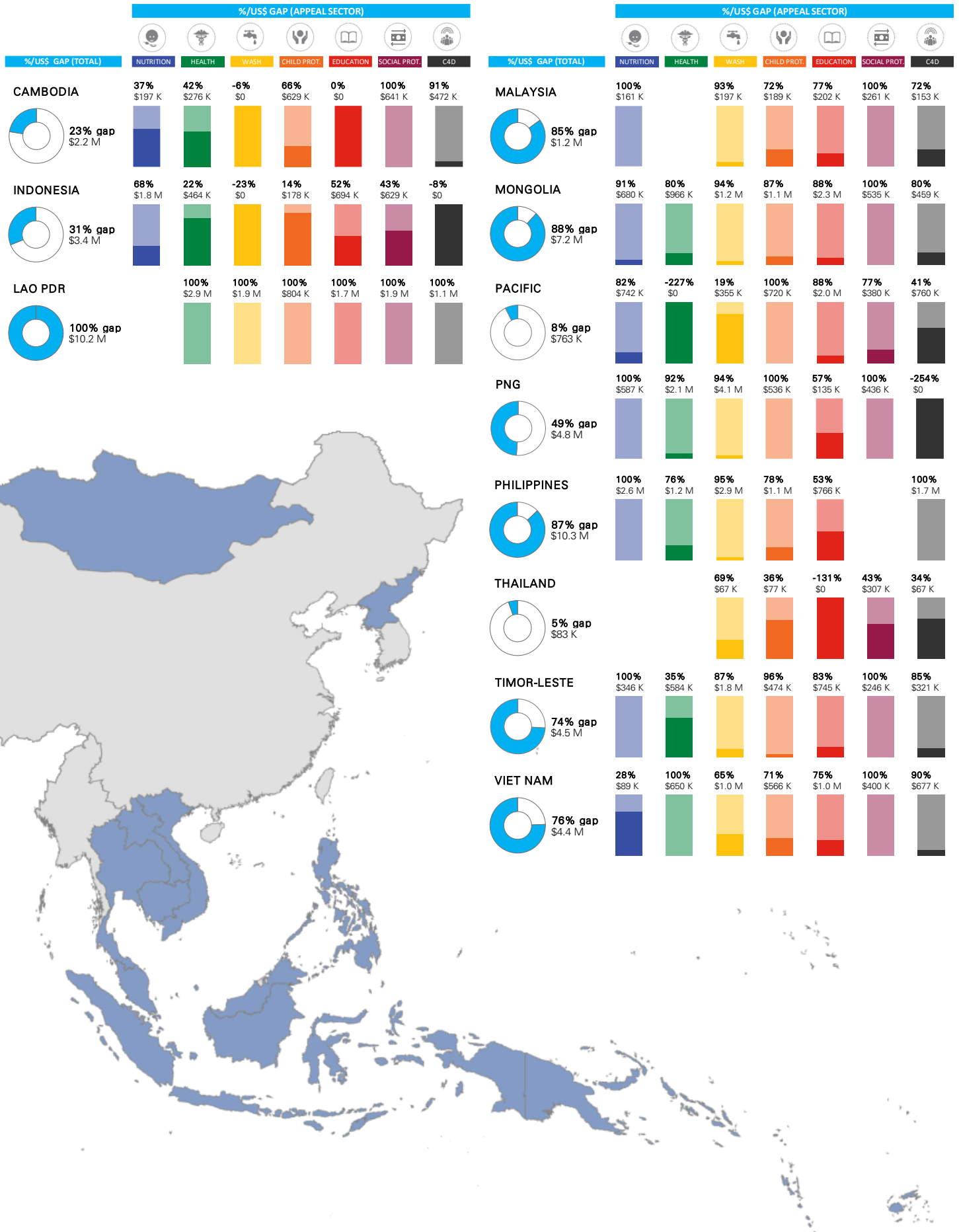
Annex B: Funding Status

Sector	Requirements	Funds Available	Funding Gap	
			\$	%
Nutrition	\$ 8,470,339	\$ 1,670,706	\$ 6,799,633	80%
Health	\$ 15,578,670	\$ 10,029,138	\$ 5,549,532	36%
WASH	\$ 19,201,651	\$ 4,831,175	\$ 14,370,476	75%
Child Protection	\$ 7,733,163	\$ 2,373,607	\$ 5,359,556	69%
Education	\$ 19,954,452	\$ 9,430,522	\$ 10,523,930	53%
Social Protection	\$ 6,145,703	\$ 1,373,892	\$ 4,771,811	78%
C4D	\$ 8,620,062	\$ 6,964,659	\$ 1,655,403	19%
Emergency Preparedness and Response (EPR)	\$ 31,514,448	\$ 8,566,268	\$ 22,948,180	73%
Total	\$ 117,218,488	\$ 45,239,966	\$ 71,978,522	61%

Country	Requirements	Funds Available		Funding Gap	
		Received Current Year	Carry-Forward	\$	%
Cambodia	\$ 9,842,787	\$ 4,761,890	\$ 2,864,317	\$ 2,216,580	23%
Indonesia	\$ 11,040,664	\$ 4,296,996	\$ 3,300,818	\$ 3,442,850	31%
Lao PDR	\$ 10,180,362	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10,180,362	100%
Malaysia	\$ 1,368,800	\$ 6,979	\$ 198,054	\$ 1,163,767	85%
Mongolia	\$ 8,121,750	\$ -	\$ 961,030	\$ 7,160,720	88%
Pacific	\$ 10,088,850	\$ 2,112,283	\$ 7,213,814	\$ 762,753	8%
PNG	\$ 9,724,900	\$ -	\$ 4,964,106	\$ 4,760,794	49%
Philippines	\$ 11,875,650	\$ 36,451	\$ 1,493,860	\$ 10,345,339	87%
Thailand	\$ 1,551,677	\$ 926,734	\$ 541,547	\$ 83,396	5%
Timor-Leste	\$ 6,055,000	\$ -	\$ 1,564,472	\$ 4,490,528	74%
Viet Nam	\$ 5,853,600	\$ -	\$ 1,430,347	\$ 4,423,253	76%
Regional EPR*	\$ 31,514,448	\$ 366,268	\$ 8,200,000	\$ 22,948,180	73%
Total	\$ 117,218,488	\$ 12,507,601	\$ 32,732,365	\$ 71,978,522	61%

*Includes funding for DPRK

Annex C: Funding Gap by Country and Sector



*Includes cross-sectoral support, operational costs and recovery costs

**Funding for DPRK is included under Regional Emergency Preparedness and Response