

UNICEF HUMANITARIAN ACTION UPDATE

Philippines

13 July 2011

UNICEF requires US\$ 3.5 million to respond to urgent needs of children and women affected by the flooding in Central Mindanao

- Urgent lifesaving actions are needed to help the 522,000 children affected by the flood. Diarrhoea-related deaths among the affected population have occurred due to congestion, lack of food and inadequate water and sanitation facilities in evacuation centres. These conditions require quick action in order to prevent the spread of water-borne disease and acute malnutrition among children under 5 years old.
- Full funding will ensure that vulnerable women and children will:
 - ✓ Gain access to health care facilities that provide immunisations and distribute micro-nutrient powders (MNP), vitamin A capsules, oral rehydration salts and deworming tablets for children 6-59 months old.
 - ✓ Receive safe water in evacuation centres, through water tanking and the distribution of purification tablets, hygiene kits and jerry cans.
 - ✓ Receive psychosocial support by accessing newly established child friendly spaces.
 - ✓ Resume education in temporary learning areas and/or by receiving learning materials.



©UNICEF Philippines/2011 - In June 2011, a series of severe weather disturbances caused flooding in Central Mindanao affecting more than 870,000 persons including an estimated 522,000 children.

1. ISSUES FOR CHILDREN

The Philippines is located along the typhoon belt of the Western Pacific and is annually hit by an average of 19 severe weather disturbances such as tropical storms and typhoons. It is also susceptible to other climatological hazards including floods and landslides. In 2010, based on the number of reported events, the Philippines was ranked third in the world with recurrent natural disasters affecting 3.9 million people.¹

More than 870,000 persons² all over the Philippines, a majority of them located in Central Mindanao, have been affected by extreme flooding and a string of severe weather disturbances. According to the National Disaster Risk Reduction Council (NDRRMC), 19 incidents of flash floods and flooding were recorded in Mindanao from 31 May to 19 June. This analysis does not include the most recent flash floods in Davao City, Davao del Norte and Bukidno - all in Mindanao - which killed 35 people, including 20 children. Central Mindanao flooding was aggravated by the blockage of major waterways by round 10-12 hectares of water hyacinths which caused the Rio Grande de Mindanao and other tributaries to overflow in unprecedented levels.

As of 28 June 2011, a total of 586 Barangays (villages) with 163,899 families (714,508 persons; approximately 428,704 children) were affected by the floods in four provinces (Maguindanao, North Cotabato, Lanao del Sur and Sultan Kudarat) and one city (Cotabato City) in Central Mindanao. Some 9,658 of these families or 32,483 persons (19,489 children) have sought refuge in 51 evacuation centres. 71 percent of the IDPs are concentrated in Cotabato City. Many of the communities affected by the flooding in Central Mindanao are the same ones that continue to be affected by the conflict in 2008. This latest disaster has set back the recovery and rehabilitation of several of these communities.

The situation in the evacuation centres and return communities remains precarious. Rains are still intermittent although the floods are slowly receding due to river de-clogging operations by government authorities. Rapid assessments highlighted the congestion, lack of food and inadequate WASH facilities within evacuation centres. Of equal concern is the unsafe situation within affected communities, as many are using filthy, stagnant water, with water sources from open dug wells and hand pumps likely to be contaminated by flood water, and temporarily abandoned health and learning facilities. In these situations the threats to the health and safety of children are of extreme concern. The Philippine government, through the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) and some local government units (LGUs) in the affected areas, has asked for international assistance to address the humanitarian situation.

Status of Flashfloods (Maguindanao, North Cotabato, Lanao del Sur, Sultan Kudarat & Cotabato City)										
as of June 28, 2011										
Area	Total Number of		Affected		Population as of 2007 Census Total	Total Affected Population		Displaced		Evacuation Centers
	Municipalities	Barangays	Municipalities	Barangays		Families	Dependents	Families	Individuals	
Cotabato City	0	37	0	35	259,253	38,234	110,513	8,274	24,280	30
Maguindanao	36	506	27	272	1,273,715	88,459	434,594	1,216	5,800	8
North Cotabato	18	543	11	144	1,121,974	29,843	132,586	113	2,128	13
Sultan Kudarat (Province)	11	249	1	7	675,644	2,828	14,140	55	275	0
Lanao del Sur	39	1,159	13	128	1,138,544	4,535	22,675	no figures	no figures	no figures
	104	2,494	52	586	4,469,130	163,899	714,508	9,658	32,483	51

Source: Data consolidated from various Government Offices in Mindanao

2. UNICEF RESPONSE: ACTIVITIES, ACHIEVEMENTS AND CONSTRAINTS

UNICEF has initiated emergency response in affected areas through the clusters and in coordination with the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) and local authorities. UNICEF, together with the government, co-leads clusters for Nutrition, WASH and Education as well as the sub-cluster for Child Protection. UNICEF's contingency plan is committed to provide immediate relief to 5,000 families in Mindanao alone. In

¹ http://www.cred.be/sites/default/files/ADSR_2010.pdf

² UNICEF Philippines Situation Report for Mindanao Flooding

response to the emergency, DSWD immediately sent non-food items (plastic sheetings, blankets and sleeping mats) to evacuation centres and host communities. UNICEF mobilised NGO partners and volunteers to provide assistance in camp management and to initiate psychosocial and learning activities. Meanwhile, water purification solutions and tablets (hyposol and aquatab) were immediately dispatched through the Department of Health (DOH) and WASH partners. More emergency supplies, including hygiene kits and micronutrient powder, have been delivered and are now being distributed to affected families.

UNICEF plans to expand its emergency response operations to reach the neediest 12 per cent of the total affected population or 24,500 families (107,000 individuals), including some 64,000 children. These needy groups include displaced families staying in evacuation centres or with host families, and families who have remained or are returning to the hardest hit communities. Based on funds currently available, WASH and Nutrition will be able to reach the critical 10 per cent of the affected population but other sectors, like child protection and education will only be able to reach 5 per cent. Donor support is critical to meeting humanitarian needs during this challenging time.

Communities are becoming more unreachable because of the floods. The humanitarian community is facing increasing barriers to access due to high flood waters. Areas that had been previously reached on foot or by land vehicles are now only accessible by canoe or water craft. These constraints are putting affected populations at increased risk of disease due to diminished access to clean water and hygiene supplies.

NUTRITION

Poor sanitary and hygiene practices, coupled with the lack of access by the humanitarian community further increases the risk for severe acute malnutrition in children under 5. Prior to the disaster, global acute malnutrition (GAM) prevalence in Maguindanao, North Cotabato, and Lanao del Sur reached 9.8 per cent in 2009³. It is essential for UNICEF to support Infant Feeding in Emergencies (IFE) by promoting exclusive breastfeeding and proper complementary feeding practices in affected areas. These practices include multiple micronutrient supplementation for children 6-59 months and pregnant and lactating women. Although therapeutic feeding is not yet necessary, UNICEF will continue monitoring the situation to determine if additional nutrition interventions are required.

Around 3,700 packs of multiple micronutrient powders for infants have been delivered. Vitamin A capsules, immunisation and micronutrient supplementation will also be provided to more than 13,200 children under-5 and 3,700 pregnant women. Some 7,500 moderately acute and severely acute malnourished children under-5 will also benefit from nutrition interventions

Urgent Actions

- Together with partners, strengthen local capacities to restore health and nutrition service delivery. Coordinate nutrition interventions, including assessments, and provide policy guidance, in partnership with local health staff and NGOs through the cluster system, including key health and nutrition focal points at the national and sub-national level.
- Promote Infant Feeding in Emergencies (IFE) in affected areas with technical guidance and operational support through provision of essential supplies.
- Distribute Micro-Nutrient Powders (MNP) and Vitamin A capsules for children 6-59 months old⁴.

HEALTH

Health facilities in affected areas have been rendered unusable because of the floods, thus limiting access to primary health care services in flood-affected areas, including immunizations and antenatal care.

³ Joint Emergency Nutrition and Food Security Assessment 2009 (Department of Health, UNICEF, WFP and Save the Children)

⁴ Note: Vit. A supplementation through the national program was concluded last May 2011, however, given the expected duration of the displacement and the high probability of recurrence of flooding and displacement, ensuring adequate stock of Vit. A for support to the next round of supplementation should be ensured.

UNICEF's initial assistance involved the provision of three sets of Basic Emergency Health Kits containing essential medicines, along with 4,978 reinforced plastic sheets, 5,526 blankets and 3,500 plastic mats. Access to healthcare services will be ensured for some 24,500 families, including 64,000 children and 6,500 pregnant and lactating women.

Urgent Actions

- To augment resources of health facilities of affected communities and of those hosting IDPs, UNICEF will provide medicine and supplies, including expanded programme on immunization vaccines and supplies, deworming tablets, oral rehydration salts (ORS) and zinc dispersible tablets.
- Establish community-based structures and support systems that offer psychosocial support services for IDPs, families who have lost loved ones, homes, possessions and/or livelihood.

WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE

The combination of poor hygiene practise, poor management of excreta and solid waste, and congested camps have created an extremely alarming situation. Women and children are highly vulnerable due to a lack of safe water and to exposure to water-borne disease such as diarrhoea. In addition, they face a loss of dignity and exposure to abuse because of inadequate sanitation conditions as reported by female IDPs during the assessments.

Many evacuation sites do not have access to a safe water supply, as wells and piped water systems were submerged or damaged during the floods. Rapid assessment shows that open defecation is being widely practiced, due to either a lack of toilets or flooded toilets in evacuation sites. With the breakdown in markets, families have limited access to basic hygiene items such as soap, and women lack access to sanitary napkins. Solid waste disposal bins are lacking within the camps while collection/disposal systems are weak. Reports of diarrhoea in the camps are escalating⁵.

UNICEF has activated the stand-by agreement with ACF (Action Against Hunger) to conduct emergency WASH initiatives in the evacuation centres and affected areas. Some 100,000 tablets of aquatabs, 11,000 bottles of hyposol, 4,000 sets of water containers and 2,000 sets of hygiene kits containing soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, nail cutters, blankets and sanitary napkins are ready for delivery.



Urgent Actions

- Coordinate WASH Cluster at the national and sub-national level including information management.
- Supply safe water through the distribution of the distribution of jerry cans with water purification tablets to 24,500 families in both evacuation centres and communities; water tinkering in all evacuation centres; and rehabilitation/ construction of at least 20 water points in return/host communities.
- Distribute hygiene kits including soap, buckets and sanitary napkins for 24,500 families for at least two months.
- Conduct hygiene promotion sessions in communities, in schools and child-friendly spaces.
- Construct child friendly and gender sensitive latrines including bathing facilities in child-friendly spaces.
- Coordinate and provide technical solutions to the management of solid and liquid waste, especially collection and disposal with consideration of possible financial support for desludging and disposal.

UNICEF, in collaboration with local partners and the authorities, will further assess the damage to the water and sanitation infrastructure and determine what longer-term actions may be necessary to restore water and sanitation services.

⁵ Office of Health Services Report as of 5 July 2011

EDUCATION

More than 120,000 school-age children are currently affected by flooding in Central Mindanao. Based on the initial results of the Damage and Needs Assessment and Needs Analysis (DANA)⁶ conducted by the Mindanao Education Cluster, there are already 171 schools and temporary learning spaces that are either submerged or being used as evacuation centres. The disaster caused damages to classrooms, school facilities and equipment, furniture, learning materials, supplies and textbooks including Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) materials.



Education Officer, Yul Olaya distributes school supplies to children affected by the floods. ©UNICEF Philippines/2011

UNICEF, in partnership with other Education Cluster members, is providing technical assistance to the Department of Education (DepED) and local government units (LGUs) in the disaster hit areas. To track children affected or displaced by the floods, UNICEF is initially delivering 3,000 sets of school packs and two sets of tents as temporary schools.

UNICEF will work for the continuation of education of about 11,500 pre-schoolers and 35,000 school children in the affected areas.

Urgent Actions

- Validate data on affected preschool and school-age children, in collaboration with DepED, LGUs and Education Cluster partners.
- Collaborate with DepED and LGUs in relocating affected/displaced children to host ECCD centres and schools.
- Establish temporary learning spaces in safe and secured areas for children who cannot be accommodated in regular ECCD centres/schools and organize education in emergency (EiE) sessions. Replace learning materials and school supplies for the affected teachers and children.

UNICEF continues to collaborate and work closely with national and local authorities and with other Education Cluster members to establish affected children's educational needs and plan future interventions. It will also coordinate closely with WASH and Child Protection Clusters to ensure that more integrated services are provided to the affected children, including provision of WASH facilities and integration of psychosocial sessions as part of the EiE sessions in the temporary learning spaces and in some selected host schools.

CHILD PROTECTION

More than 428,000 children have been affected by the flood. Nearly 20,000 of them have been displaced and are staying in evacuation centres, while an undetermined number are staying with host families. The disorganisation of communities and the loss of livelihood have created additional stress on families. Central Mindanao is a known "hotspot" for child trafficking, an area where child labour is common and where armed groups operate. The current natural disaster exacerbates the existing risks faced by children. It also creates new ones like the potential separation of children and the psychosocial impact of prolonged displacement. The Child Protection Working Group (CPWG) is currently working in major evacuation camps and home-based sites, developing community based child protection networks and offering psychosocial, hygiene and health promotion services to approximately 24,000 children. CPWG will expand services to 40,000 more children in affected communities.

⁶ Damage and Needs Assessment July 2011 for Mindanao Flooding

The CPWG will continue to support DSWD validation of children through child protection registration, assessment processes and masterlisting families to ensure that they stay together in evacuation camps and in their return to their original communities. Up to 150 recreation kits with Child Protection information materials have been delivered for the use in children’s activities in the camps.



Child Protection Specialist, Maureen Jane Mac Phail interacts with children in an evacuation camp. UNICEF was one of the first to respond to child protection needs. ©UNICEF Philippines/2011

Urgent Actions

- Validate child protection registration and assessment process.
- Prevent family separation and, if necessary, identify and support unaccompanied and separated children, including family tracing mechanisms.
- Establish ‘child-friendly’ spaces where children can feel safe, play, and receive psychosocial support; including the provision of recreation / play kits, hygiene and health promotions in coordination with other sectors/ clusters.

UNICEF and its partners will continue to support the government in validation of the registration of children and will work to strengthen local capacities.

3. FUNDING REQUIREMENTS AND RECEIPTS

At mid-year, UNICEF Philippines has not received any donor contribution against its 2011 Humanitarian Action for Children (HAC) which includes the requirements of the Humanitarian Action Plan (HAP)⁷ for Central Mindanao. In order to respond to humanitarian needs, UNICEF Philippines has used some US\$3.5 million of emergency funds carried over from 2010.

This Humanitarian Action Update highlights the increasing needs due to the recent flooding and provides the priority needs of an additional US\$ 3.5 million required by the UNICEF country office to respond to the most urgent needs over the following three months (July-September). At the onset of the serious flooding, UNICEF Philippines immediately re-allocated US\$ 200,000 of its programme funds for emergency response.

The Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) has decided to apply for the rapid response facility of Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) to include UNICEF’s WASH and Nutrition interventions. The HCT, together, with the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) have made an appeal to the donor community through a donor’s forum. UNICEF Philippines urgently requires these programmable funds in order to save lives and prevent the situation becoming even more acute.

Table 1: Funds received against the HAC 2011 (US\$)

Sector	Original 2011 HAC requirements (a)	Revised HAC requirements (b)	Funds received (c)	Funding gap (b-c)
Health	2,100,000	2,100,000	0	2,100,000
Nutrition	875,000	875,000	0	875,000
Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	3,500,000	3,500,000	0	3,500,000

⁷ The recently revised HAP incorporates emergency requirements for the flooding in addition to the original humanitarian plan for communities affected by armed conflict.

Education	3,710,000	3,710,000	0	3,710,000
Child Protection	3,500,000	3,500,000	0	3,500,000
HIV and AIDS	49,000	49,000	0	49,000
Cluster/Sector coordination related costs (Including operational cost of field office)	288,000	1,373,400	0	1,373,400
Total*	14,022,000	15,107,400	0	15,107,400

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

Table 2. Funding Priorities over following three months (July-September)

Project	Beneficiaries/Coverage	Amount Required (US\$)
1. Water, Sanitation and Hygiene: construction of water points & latrines, provision of safe water; distribution of hygiene and water kits	24,500 families	1,500,000
2. Nutrition: Infant Feeding in Emergencies (IFE); distribution of micronutrient powders (MNP) and vitamin supplements; medicines and supplies	24,500 families; 64,000 children; 6,500 pregnant and lactating women; 13,200 under 5 years old; 3,700 pregnant women; 7,500 moderately acute and severely acute malnourished children	800,000
3. Education: temporary learning spaces; relocation of school children	11,500 pre-schoolers; 35,000 school children	360,000
4. Child Protection: establish child-friendly spaces, organise CP community committees	24,000 children in evacuation centres; 40,000 children in affected communities	432,000
Total Priority Needs		3,492,000

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

UNICEF Philippines wishes to express gratitude to all donors who continue to provide the unwavering support that enables UNICEF to address the humanitarian issues of the most vulnerable children and women in Philippines.

Further information on the UNICEF emergency programme in the Philippines can be obtained from:

<p>Ms. Vanessa Tobin UNICEF Representative UNICEF Philippines Tel: +63 917 867 8342 Email: vtobin@unicef.org</p>	<p>Dermot Carty Deputy Director Office of Emergency Programmes (EMOPS) UNICEF Geneva Tel: + 41 22 909 5601 E-mail: dcarty@unicef.org</p>	<p>June Kunugi Deputy Director Public Sector Alliances and Resource Mobilization (PARMO) UNICEF New York Tel: + 1-212 326 7009 Email : jkunugi@unicef.org</p>
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