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Timor-Leste

Humanitarian Situation Report No. 6



Reporting Period: 22 May to 18 June 2021

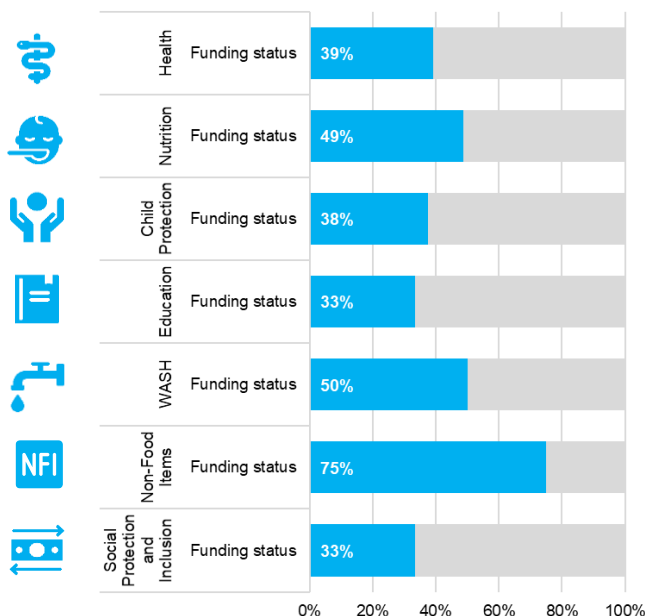
Highlights

- This Situation Report complements the UN Resident Coordinator's Office [Timor-Leste Floods Situation Reports](#) with details on the situation and needs of children and their mothers, and on actions taken by UNICEF as part of the UN's humanitarian response.
- Flooding and landslides have caused 48 fatalities and affected 30,367 households across Timor-Leste. Of those, 81% - or 24,674 households - are in Dili municipality. There are still 813 temporarily displaced persons in 6 evacuation facilities across Dili.
- The Government and humanitarian partners, including the UN, launched a US\$ 32.7 million [Joint Appeal & Flood Response Plan](#) on 2 June to respond to residual humanitarian needs and assist with the early recovery process until December 2021.
- In the past month, UNICEF supported mobile clinics which provided health care services and medicine to 695 under-five children in evacuation centres. UNICEF also continued to support sanitation facilities in evacuation centres, as well as water treatment at household level. Malnutrition screening for children in evacuation centres continued on a weekly basis, as well as promotion of optimal infant and young child feeding practices. Child friendly spaces continued providing Mental Health and Psychosocial Support to children in eight locations, increasingly at community level rather than in evacuation centres.

Situation in Numbers

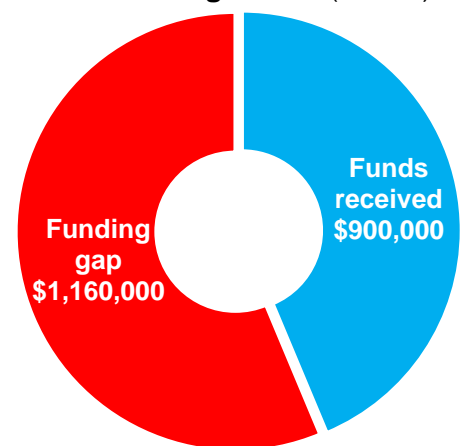
- 160 +** Under five children in evacuation centres in Dili
- 30,367** Total affected households across country
- 813** Internally displaced people (IDPs) in Dili
- 48** Fatalities¹

UNICEF's Funding Status



UNICEF floods needs US\$ 2.06 million

Funding Status (in US\$)



¹ The official fatality figures include 14 missing persons.

Funding Overview and Partnerships

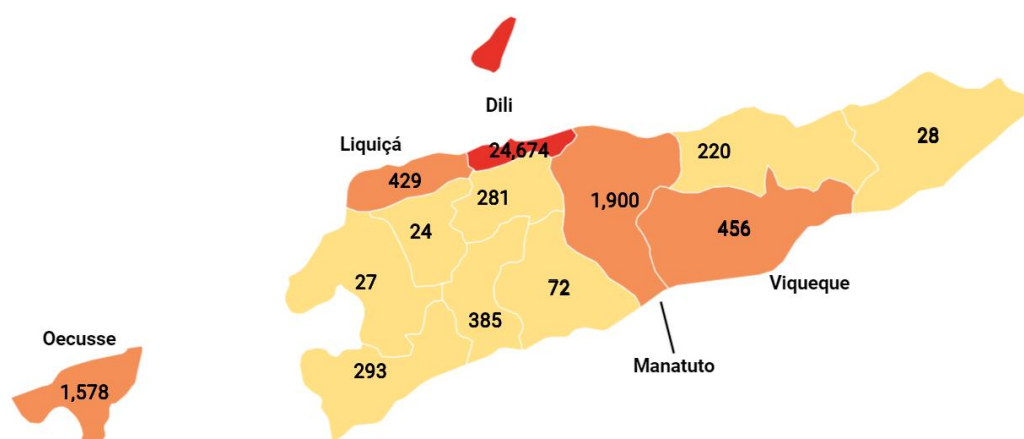
In April 2021, UNICEF identified the need for US\$ 2,060,000 to sustain provision of life-saving and immediate essential services for women and children, and support early recovery in Timor-Leste. UNICEF was able to respond rapidly thanks to US\$ 100,000 in pre-positioned supplies funded by Denmark and the United Kingdom, and by repurposing US\$ 100,000 regular resources to meet the immediate response needs. The Government of New Zealand provided US\$ 400,000 for the flood response and continued efforts to combat COVID-19, along with supplies and equipment for immediate response to the needs of women and children, especially related to water and sanitation. US\$ 300,000 was received from the UNICEF Humanitarian Thematic Fund at global and regional level – a pooled, flexible multi-year fund supported by various donors that enables UNICEF to respond quickly to emergencies. 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.

Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

Heavy rains across the country 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 latest official figures indicate that 6 evacuation facilities are still operating in Dili municipality, where 813 people – or 157 households – are temporarily sheltered. This is 930 people less compared to the last reporting period, as people are continuing to return home. There is thus a need to both continue to support families that remain in the evacuation sites, and to assist affected communities, including ensuring that essential services and support are available in these communities.

Number of flood-affected households by municipality
Data source: Timor-Leste Secretariat of State for Civil Protection, 15 June 2021



There is a critical need to ensure access to clean and safe water, including with water treatment measures at community and/or household levels, and to improve sanitation and hygiene, as well as to provide health services for the most vulnerable. The provision of nutrition services, including screening and referral for severe/critical cases of malnutrition, is also a priority. Moreover, the response must address the psychosocial and learning needs of affected children and adolescents, and provide learning materials to affected children and WASH rehabilitation in schools affected by the floods.

The floods took place in the context of rising COVID-19 cases in Timor-Leste. During most of the reporting period, Dili municipality was under lockdown, to curb COVID-19 infections. The lockdown was suspended on 16 June, but a sanitary fence remains in place in 4 of the country's 13 municipalities, including Dili, thus limiting the movement of people. As of 16 June, there were 1,275 active cases of COVID-19.

Summary Analysis of Programme Response

Non-Food Items

Thanks to pre-positioned relief supplies, UNICEF was able to provide immediate assistance shortly after the floods. With logistical support from the World Food Programme, UNICEF provided over 20,000 units of non-food items including 2,754 cleaning kits, 1,909 plastic mats, 1,956 blankets, 183 tarpaulins, 307 solar lanterns as well as a range of other critical supplies. The hygiene and cleaning materials, bedding, clothes and toys provided to evacuation sites, residential care institutions and affected communities have served over 30,000 people, approximately 50% of whom were children.

WASH

UNICEF continued supporting access to safe water for flood-affected families. Over the reporting period, UNICEF supported water treatment at household level, handing over 852 portable water containers. The distribution of water purification tablets that UNICEF had previously provided to the Ministry of Health continued, and 950 households have

received tablets both in communities and evacuation centres in Dili municipality, along with demonstration on how to use them. Some of the tablets were also distributed to a health centre in Manatuto municipality. UNICEF also continued to support operation and maintenance of rented temporary sanitation facilities in five evacuation centres, and is working toward replacing these with a more suitable medium-term solution, i.e. portable toilets received from New Zealand. The process of assembling the pre-fabricated toilets and customizing them to suit local behaviour patterns is underway.



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Health

UNICEF continued to provide operational support to Dili Municipality Health Services (DHS)'s operation of mobile clinics in existing evacuation centres. UNICEF provided transportation support in order for DHS to visit each evacuation centre for health check-ups and distribution of essential supplies, as well as monitoring and supervision of service delivery. In May 2021, the mobile health clinics reached 1,111 girls/women and 957 boys/men with outpatient consultation services, including 695 under-five children (387 girls and 308 boys). The most common morbidities were respiratory infections and skin diseases in children, and gastritis in adults.

Nutrition

The priority needs in the nutrition sector are to screen, refer, and treat cases of acute malnutrition, in collaboration with the health sector, and to strengthen preventative nutrition interventions. UNICEF, with the European Union, Fundasaun Aloa and other partners, supported the Ministry of Health (MoH) to respond. Forty-four mother support group (MSG) members continued to conduct weekly screening for severe acute malnutrition (SAM), referral and follow-up, and to promote counselling and promotion of optimal infant and young child feeding (IYCF) practices. During the past four weeks, 294 children were screened in evacuation centres, none of whom were found to suffer from SAM. The nine children previously identified as suffering from SAM continued to receive treatment in health facilities. MSG members also provided counselling services to 344 mothers (42 pregnant women, 146 mothers of children 0-23 months and 156 mothers of children 24 – 59 months) over the reporting period. Moreover, UNICEF continued to support the MoH to monitor adherence to the statement on appropriate support for IYCF in the evacuation centres.

Child Protection

In partnership with the Ministry of Social Solidarity and Inclusion (MSSI), Commission on the Rights of the Child, and 10 CSOs, UNICEF continued to support child-friendly spaces (CFS), with over 1,000 children reached since the start of the flood response. Eight CFS remain operational, often moving into communities as evacuation centres have closed down. They have continued delivering Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) activities to children. This is a transition process into the implementation of CFS as part of community based MHPSS, and a training of trainers on Community-based MHPSS is underway. Moreover, a specific Parenting Education session on Early Stimulation, Child Protection and Non-violence discipline was conducted for about 15 parents at an evacuation centre, in response to reports of harsh disciplinary practices. UNICEF also continued its support of the Ministry of Health (MoH)'s national hotline for MHPSS, including regular training for operators. A meeting between MSSI, MoH Mental Health Unit, and UNICEF was held to identify opportunities to strengthen MHPSS referral pathways at community level. Delivery of non-food items (NFI) to affected families also continued, including family kits, hygiene kits for children, portable lamps, and mosquito repellent for children in collaboration with MSSI and the Commission on the Rights of the Child.

Education

UNICEF in partnership with the Timor-Leste Coalition for Education continued to provide learning activities for children, gradually winding down these operations as evacuation centres close down. Of the 8 centres that UNICEF was supporting, only 1 centre currently remains open, where 12 volunteers continue to support children's learning activities. Altogether, the learning activities have reached 460 children since the start of the flood response. Extra masks and hand sanitizers were provided to volunteers to replenish stock, to enable the activities to operate safely. UNICEF also supported the Ministry of Education in cleaning the schools previously used as evacuation centres to enable the upcoming reopening of schools. The Ministry is also continuing its assessment of damages in schools, to have the full list of repairs and educational supplies that are required for schools to reopen.

Social Protection and Inclusion

The second-round of life-skills based education (LSBE) sessions, carried out by trained facilitators from the Alumni Association of the Youth Parliament (APFTL) and some current adolescent members of the National Youth Parliament,

took place in 4 evacuation centres, where they reached 81 adolescents. This brings the total number of LSBE participants to 299 adolescents and youth (ages 10-24) since the start of the flood response, including adolescents and youth sheltered in evacuation facilities and participants from neighbouring communities. Girls and women were well-represented, as they accounted for two thirds of participants. This EU-supported activity included a focus on gender equality and prevention of violence.

Humanitarian Leadership, Coordination and Strategy

The Government renewed its declaration of a state of calamity in Dili until 4 August, and continued to work closely with development partners for the response. The operational coordination of the flood response is led by the Secretariat of State for Civil Protection. Humanitarian coordination is organized by sectors led by line ministries with UN agencies as co-leads.

The Government and humanitarian partners, including the UN, launched a [Joint Appeal & Flood Response Plan](#) on 2 June for US \$32.7 million to respond to residual humanitarian needs and assist with the early recovery process to December 2021.

UNICEF played an active role in the development of this response plan, as it co-leads the WASH, nutrition and education sectors and the child protection sub-group within the gender and protection sector, and was also proactive in the health sector.



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Human Interest Stories and External Media

The Ministry of Health distributed water purification tablets in Tasi Tolu, Dili Municipality: <https://www.facebook.com/uniceftimorleste/posts/2900804946844068>

UNICEF handed over portable handwashing devices through MercyCorp in Manatuto Municipality: <https://www.facebook.com/uniceftimorleste/posts/2902852426639320>

The government of New Zealand airlifted over 8 tonnes of humanitarian supplies to support UNICEF's emergency response: www.facebook.com/uniceftimorleste/photos/pcb.2906946306229932/2906941176230445/?_rdc=1&_rdr

Next SitRep: 16 July 2021

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