



Philippines Humanitarian Situation Report No. 5

Multiple typhoons and earthquakes

Reporting period: 4 to 17 December 2025

In photo: Ana, 35, has her one-month-old baby checked during a medical consultation in San Remigio, Cebu. UNICEF donated health supplies following the 6.9-magnitude earthquake and Typhoon Tino. UNICEF Philippines/2025/Larry Monserate Piojo

Highlights

- In Catanduanes, UNICEF is helping four municipalities to address identified child protection needs, provide appropriate support to those affected, and to prevent abuses. With its civil society partner, it is focusing on enhancing local capacities and coordination mechanisms as well as helping improve referral pathways and reporting and feedback mechanisms. Orientation sessions have been conducted to inform communities about feedback mechanisms and raise awareness on the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse, helping ensure accountability.
- With the Department of Social Welfare and Development, UNICEF is preparing for the second payout of emergency cash grants to typhoon-affected families in Catanduanes. This second round will benefit families whose households were totally damaged because of Super Typhoon Uwan (international name: Fung-wong).
- Continuing to fill critical gaps in disaster-affected areas, UNICEF is sending water tanks for evacuation centres in Cebu province, and additional water and hygiene kits for still unserved communities in Catanduanes.

UNICEF humanitarian response 2025

Interventions			Beneficiaries
	Social protection	Emergency cash assistance	5,751 families
	WASH	6,650 water kits 6,650 hygiene kits	6,650 families
	Nutrition	215 boxes of Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Food 20 packs of middle-upper arm circumference tape 280 breastfeeding kits	1,215 children 280 mothers
	Education	19 temporary learning spaces 2,728 learning kits	9,608 students 436 students
	Health	5 basic Interagency Emergency Health Kits (IEHK) 5 supplementary basic IEHK	5,000 people

Situation overview and humanitarian needs

Children and families in several parts of the Philippines continue to deal with the effects of the destructive tropical cyclones and earthquakes that hit the country in close succession over the past three months. In early November, Super Typhoon Uwan (international name: Fung-wong) and Typhoon Tino (Kalmaegi) caused floods, landslides and other hazards that damaged houses, schools and key infrastructure, as well as led to losses of lives and livelihoods, in Luzon and Visayas. Several of the areas affected were, at that time, trying to recover from the aftermath of powerful earthquakes in October and two typhoons in late September.

The Government of the Philippines continues to lead response, recovery and restoration efforts. National government agencies and local government units (LGUs) are mobilizing personnel, resources and funds to address people's needs, although some gaps remain.

Catanduanes province (Region V, in Luzon) experienced severe and recurrent impacts from recent emergencies. Cebu province (Region VII, in the Visayas) bore the brunt of Typhoon Tino just a few weeks after an earthquake struck its northern municipalities. Davao Oriental province (Region XI, in Mindanao) was also affected by earthquakes. The two strong typhoons in late September inundated provinces in southern Luzon and northern and eastern Visayas. A summary of the compounded effects of these emergencies is provided below.

Social protection: In Catanduanes, markets are open but people's access and purchasing power is limited, as their main livelihood sources – farming and fishing – were badly affected.

Child protection: Following Super Typhoon Uwan, reports indicated heightened protection risks in dark and crowded evacuation centres, including makeshift or home-based shelters. Women and children reportedly face trauma and exclusion aid and essential services. The situation underscores the urgent need for safe, gender-sensitive facilities and psychosocial support.

Health: Regional Centres of Health Development have reported urgent needs for medicines, including tetanus treatments and doxycycline. Coughs, fevers, wounds, dizziness and abdominal pain are common in disaster-affected areas, raising concerns about potential outbreaks of respiratory and diarrhoeal diseases.

Nutrition: Children with severe acute malnutrition (SAM) and moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) have been identified in Region VII. At the same time, the region is experiencing a region-wide stockout of both Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Food (RUTF) and Ready-to-Use Supplementary Food (RUSF). SAM and MAM cases were also identified during assessments in Catanduanes and Camarines Sur.

Education: Thousands of schools across 16 regions sustained varying degrees of damage. Many schools still face interruptions in power supply, water and internet connectivity. Immediate needs include temporary learning spaces, learning kits, and psychological first aid for learners and personnel.

Water, sanitation and hygiene: Many areas continue to experience power and water supply disruptions, leaving children and families with inadequate or no access to clean water. With over 20,000 destroyed houses, families are living dangerously in makeshift shelters with limited access to water supply and sanitation facilities or staying in overcrowded evacuation centres or with their relatives.

Summary of programme response

Social protection

In preparation for the second payout of cash grants, DSWD is finalizing the list of families with totally damaged homes who are eligible for this next round. Coordination meetings and field visits in DSWD Region V are planned on 17 to 19 December, to support this process and ensure field readiness.

Meanwhile, Plan International, the third-party civil society organization engaged by UNICEF, started the post-distribution monitoring exercise on 15 December and is expected to complete all data collection by 19 December. The exercise covers a sample of 375 households from the 5,751 recipients. It aims to check whether the families received the entire transfer amounts and how they used it, and whether they have any feedback.

UNICEF and DSWD held a workshop on 16 December where they discussed the terms of reference of a standby memorandum of understanding, between the two organizations, for the implementation of emergency cash transfers. This is expected to improve internal coordination and standard operating procedures within DSWD for future cash response. The workshop considered the lessons from the first payout to inform enhancements.

Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH)

As the multiple emergencies in various parts of the country transition from response to recovery, UNICEF continues to coordinate with civil society partners, local government units, the DOH Health Emergency Management Bureau and the DOH Centres for Health Development (DOH-CHD) to identify unmet needs and unreached populations.

In line with this, UNICEF, in collaboration with DOH-CHD Region 7, is deploying collapsible water tanks for use in evacuation centres still housing people displaced by Typhoon Tino and the earthquake in Cebu province. It will also be releasing 3,000 hygiene and 3,000 water kits to the Catanduanes Provincial Health Office for distribution to still unserved communities affected by Super Typhoon Uwan.

To date, UNICEF has reached 16,519 people affected by Typhoons Nando (Pampanga), Opong (Masbate) and Uwan (Cagayan, Isabela, Santiago City, Nueva Vizcaya and Catanduanes) and the earthquake in northern Cebu with hygiene supplies and water kits. It has also reached an estimated, pending additional reports, 11,925 people affected by Typhoon Tino and the earthquake in Davao Oriental.

Education

UNICEF continues to coordinate closely with the DepEd Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Services (DRRMS), DepEd Schools Division DRRM Coordinators and the Social Welfare and Development Offices of LGUs to identify priority schools and child development centres where UNICEF can address gaps in view of the compounded effects of the various typhoons and earthquakes.

In response to Typhoon Opong, UNICEF has deployed temporary learning spaces and learning kits to a total of 31 schools and 64 child development centres in the provinces of Masbate, Romblon, and Western Samar, benefiting 10,547 students and 501 teachers. UNICEF is preparing to send additional assistance to priority schools affected by the earthquakes in Cebu and Davao Oriental.

Health

UNICEF continues to meet and coordinate with the United Nations Health Cluster and the Medical and Public Health sub-cluster of the DOH Health Quad-cluster to monitor the active emergency situations and any requests for assistance from regional and local government units. It is prioritizing augmenting the government's health-related response to the aftermath of Uwan and Tino.

Nutrition

As the Nutrition Cluster co-lead, UNICEF continued to support cluster response at both the national and sub-national levels. At the national level, UNICEF supports the cluster in coordination, assessment and information management. At the subnational level, UNICEF supports the implementation and monitoring of essential nutrition services in Region 5 (Bicol), where rapid needs assessments were carried out, and in the earthquake-affected areas in Region 7 (Cebu). Collectively, UNICEF, through the Nutrition Cluster, has reached at least 473 children and women with life-saving nutrition interventions in various emergency-affected areas.

Local distribution of the supplies donated by UNICEF to the DOH-CHD Region 7 is ongoing. Updates from Mandaue City include 27 SAM children (16 male, 11 female) receiving RUTF, 10 lactating mothers benefitting from breastfeeding kits, and five cans of F75 therapeutic milk provided to Eversley Childs Sanitarium and General Hospital for possible admissions of SAM children with medical complications. These Nutrition in Emergencies supplies – which include 2 boxes of F75, 100 boxes of RUTF, 20 packs of MUAC tapes, and 200 breastfeeding kits – arrived on 19 November and were fully turned over to the region on 1 December.

To ensure that the nutrition needs of children and women are adequately covered, UNICEF had procured 1,250 boxes of RUTF, which has arrived in-country, with clearance being processed in several batches. These commodities, along with Iron and Folic Acid supplement, will be deployed to typhoon-affected municipalities in Camarines Sur and Catanduanes, where rapid needs assessment identified 101 children with SAM, along with 1,181 pregnant women and 944 lactating women requiring continued nutrition support.

Child protection, gender-based violence in emergencies, prevention of sexual abuse and exploitation

UNICEF continued to advance its Child Protection in Emergencies response in Region V. In partnership with Fundación Educación y Cooperación (Educo), it is focusing on four municipalities in Catanduanes province: Bagamanoc, Caramoran, Panganiban and Viga. The response aims to ensure that children and adolescents affected by disasters have access to timely, gender-responsive, and child-focused protection and psychosocial support services.

Inception meetings and detailed implementation planning have been completed in all four municipalities. Coordination and alignment meetings with the Provincial Health Office and the Provincial Social Welfare and Development Office, meanwhile, have helped finalize the mental health and psychosocial support training and approach. These initiatives are set to strengthen local preparedness and response capacity through improved inter-agency and local coordination and capacity building on child protection in emergencies, case management, and application of Child Protection Minimum Standards. Current priorities include enhancing existing local referral pathways to align with the revised case management protocol for CANE+D (Children Abused, Neglected, Exploited, and Discriminated). Training sessions for stakeholders and frontline service providers, as well as psychological first aid sessions for children and caregivers, are scheduled to take place in January 2026.

Child-friendly feedback mechanisms and efforts to ensure protection from sexual exploitation and abuse were also initiated to reinforce accountability to affected populations and in alignment with UNICEF's zero-tolerance

policy. Specifically on the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA), Educo is working to strengthen safe, accessible and context-appropriate reporting and response mechanisms. It conducted rapid assessments and community consultations to better understand contextual risks, barriers to reporting and preferred reporting channels, and organized orientation sessions for community members and frontline actors. Existing reporting mechanisms are being reviewed and refined to ensure they remain functional, survivor-centred and responsive to the local context. In parallel, PSEA feedback and reporting systems are being enhanced to improve accessibility, timeliness and overall accountability to affected populations.

Humanitarian leadership, coordination and strategy

Together with the Government of the Philippines, UNICEF is a cluster lead in the WASH, nutrition, and child protection areas of responsibility and supports coordination for the education cluster. In this capacity, UNICEF provides technical assistance, coordination support, pre-positioned supplies and other interventions that strengthen national and regional response systems. This approach reflects its commitment as a technical partner and enabler that reinforces the government's capacity to respond to emergencies while ensuring and reinforcing government ownership and building sustainable capacity for rapid, coordinated humanitarian action.

UNICEF pursues a balanced approach between providing immediate life-saving assistance, investing in systems strengthening and building the resilience of services and communities. Its programmes are informed by risk analysis and linked to early recovery and resilience-building of communities and services. UNICEF prioritizes gender, disability, equity and mainstreaming the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse and accountability to affected populations in its humanitarian response.

Funding overview and partnerships

To date, UNICEF has received more than US\$820,000 from public and private sector partners, including the United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund and UNICEF's National Committees, to fill the most critical gaps in services for children and their families affected by multiple recent emergencies.

UNICEF continues to engage bilateral partners and mobilize additional support through its National Committees globally. It relies on voluntary donations to uphold its mission, especially during emergencies. Contributions from public and private sector partners, including individuals, are vital to reaching the most vulnerable children and their families.

UNICEF coordinates with other United Nations agencies and with the following government entities: Department of Health, the National Nutrition Council, the Department of Education, the Department of Social Welfare and Development, and the National Child Protection Working Group, and their sub-national counterparts.

Human interest stories and external media

WeShare link (public) for multimedia assets:

<https://weshare.unicef.org/Share/7g1hmfh06485g885sya7y3ln262n4225>

Release date	Content	Links
18 December 2025	Article: How UNICEF's cash-first approach, funded by the UN Central Emergency Respond Fund, promotes	Cash-first is children first UNICEF Philippines

	dignity for vulnerable families with children and helps improve government systems in times of crisis	
17 December 2025	Video: Over 5,000 families in Catanduanes received UNICEF cash grants, supported by the UN Central Emergency Response Fund. UNICEF prioritizes cash assistance as a fast, effective, and dignified way to support families during emergencies.	YouTube , Facebook , Instagram , X
07 December 2025	Video: Joshua, UNICEF Young Advocate, shares how young people continue to carry the weight of a crisis they didn't create.	Facebook , Instagram , TikTok

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