**Timor-Leste Humanitarian Situation Report No. 3**

**Reporting Period:** 22 April to 28 April 2021

### Highlights

- This Situation Report complements the [Timor-Leste Floods-Situation Report No. 7](#) 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 41 fatalities and affected 31,337 households across Timor-Leste. Of those, 83% or 25,928 households are in Dili municipality. The Secretariat of State for Civil Protection estimates that there are still 3,925 temporarily displaced persons in 25 evacuation facilities across Dili.

- On 27 and 28 April, two children died of suspected diarrheal disease and acute respiratory infection (ARI) in a flood-affected community in Dili.

- UNICEF supported the provision of water to approximately 2,500 people, with a floating raft constructed to transport water to stranded communities whose water supply and access roads were cut off by the flood. In addition to psychosocial and learning activities for children, UNICEF initiated life-skills based education (LSBE) for adolescents in 10 evacuation centres. Infant and young child feeding (IYCF) corners were set up by UNICEF and partners in 10 additional evacuation centres, bringing the total to 22.

### UNICEF’s Funding Status

- **Health:** Funding status 39%
- **Nutrition:** Funding status 49%
- **Child Protection:** Funding status 38%
- **Education:** Funding status 33%
- **WASH:** Funding status 50%
- **Non-Food Items:** Funding status 75%
- **Social Protection and Inclusion:** Funding status 33%

**UNICEF floods needs US$ 2.06 million**

Funding Status (in US$)

- **Funds received, $900,000**
- **Funding gap, $1,160,000**

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1 The official fatality figures have been reduced by the government since the first situation report.
Funding Overview and Partnerships

UNICEF needs US$ 2,060,000 to sustain provision of life-saving and immediate essential services for women and children in Timor-Leste. UNICEF has been able to respond rapidly thanks to US$ 100,000 in pre-positioned supplies funded by Denmark and the United Kingdom, and by repurposing 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 were 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.

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 a total of 25 evacuation facilities in Dili municipality, where 3,925 people – or 799 households – are temporarily sheltered. This is 2,163 people less compared to the last reporting period, as people are continuing to return home. There is thus a need for both sustained essential services in the evacuation sites, and for assistance to affected communities, including critical food and non-food items, and ensuring that essential services and support are available in these communities.

There is a critical need for expanded access to clean and safe water and improved sanitation and hygiene. Two infants (aged 4 and 8 months) died due to suspected diarrheal disease and acute respiratory infection (ARI) in a flood-affected community on 27 and 28 April, which highlights the urgent need 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. There is an immediate need to address the psychosocial and learning needs of affected children and adolescents, and to 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. On 28 April, the President renewed the State of Emergency for another 30 days. As of 28 April, there were 1,073 active cases of COVID-19, with a steep upward trend in new cases.

Summary Analysis of Programme Response

Non-Food Items

UNICEF provided immediate assistance thanks to pre-positioned relief supplies. With logistical support from the World Food Programme, UNICEF provided over 10,000 units of non-food items (NFI) including 1,392 cleaning kits, 1,808 plastic mats, 1,956 blankets, 127 tarpaulins, 215 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 has served more than 20,000 people. The focus on NFIs has now shifted toward supporting pregnant and lactating women and young children, with 56 mother and child kits and 20 family hygiene kits distributed in the last week.

WASH

UNICEF has been facilitating the coordination of partners in the WASH sector and has played a key role in WASH assessments and monitoring. There is an immediate need for clean water, improved sanitation and hygiene promotion for the affected population, both in displacement sites and communities. UNICEF continued its efforts to improve access to water and sanitation facilities by installing water tanks and portable toilets in affected communities, including provisions of sanitation supplies and consumables. Behaviour change communication materials have been distributed to evacuation sites and communities to promote good hygiene behaviours. Moreover, a floating raft was constructed to transport water to stranded communities across a flooded lake in Dili Municipality, reaching approximately 2,500 people whose water supply and access roads were cut off by the flood.
Health
UNICEF continued to support the Ministry of Health (MoH) and Dili Municipality Health Services in the assessment of flash flood victims and to roll out emergency health interventions for flood affected children and mother in temporary shelters in Dili. UNICEF also provided technical assistance to the District Public Health Offices (DPHO) in flood affected municipalities outside Dili to analyse the assessment data and report, then design a response plan. Additionally, UNICEF continued to support SAMES (the autonomous body under MoH that manages medical supplies including vaccines) to strengthen the backup generator and fuel supply system to ensure a functional cold chain in case of rain/floods and/or electricity failure, and to procure additional personal protective equipment for health professionals and frontline health workers to replenish the supplies destroyed by the floods.

Nutrition
The priority needs in the nutrition sector are to provide access to quality curative services through the most appropriate modalities, systematic identification, referral, and treatment of acutely malnourished cases in collaboration with the health sector. Strengthening the quality and scale of preventative nutrition interventions is of equal importance. UNICEF, with the European Union and other partners, supported the Ministry of Health (MoH) to establish IYCF corners in 10 additional evacuation centres, bringing the total to 22 evacuation centres that promote, protect and support IYCF practices. This included providing an orientation and deploying an additional 18 mother support group (MSG) members, in partnership with Alola Foundation, to conduct screening for severe acute malnutrition (SAM), referral and follow-up, and to promote counselling and promotion of optimal support infant and young child feeding (IYCF) practices. The MSG members screened 408 children in 7 evacuation centres; 10 children suffering from SAM have started treatment. Moreover, as there is a concern over private donations of bottles and breastmilk substitute, UNICEF also continued to support MoH to monitor adherence to the statement on appropriate support for IYCF in the evacuation centres.

Child Protection
Children in evacuation sites and affected communities face various child protection risks, in addition to distress induced by the floods. The first meeting of a Specialized Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) Task Force was held on 26 April, with the Ministry of Social Solidarity and Inclusion (MSSI), UNICEF, WHO, the National Hospital and 4 CSOs coordinating to provide services to people in need. UNICEF has continued operating the child-friendly spaces (CFS) in 13 evacuation sites, in partnership with the Ministry of Social Solidarity and Inclusion (MSSI), Commission on the Rights of the Child, and several CSOs. These have so far reached 1,000 children with activities designed for psychosocial support. UNICEF also continued to support the Ministry of Health’s national hotline for MHPSS, through ongoing training of operators and other technical and operational support. UNICEF and MSSI also extended support to Manatuto municipality and delivered 10 school bags of games and activity sheets for children who lost family members during the floods, as well as supported the local child protection officers to further assist affected families and children.

Education
UNICEF is supporting the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports (MoEYS) to coordinate the education sector response to the flooding. 35 schools across the country have been affected, including 16 that have been severely damaged. In Dili, seven schools and the Teacher Training Institute (Infordepe) are being used as evacuation centres. In the education sector, there is an immediate need to address the psychosocial and learning needs of affected children. It is also necessary to provide learning materials and WASH improvements to schools affected by the flooding, and in the longer term, to reconstruct and renovate affected schools. UNICEF and partners continued structured learning activities to children in 8 evacuation centres, which has benefited 450 children so far, including children from surrounding affected communities. The learning activities are monitored by a team of supervisors from various partner organizations to ensure that children are wearing masks and are adequately physically distanced. In addition to 50 volunteers from the National University of Timor-Leste and schools in Dili, 23 more volunteers have come forward to join the learning activities.

Social Protection and Inclusion
UNICEF provided 50 cleaning kits, 10 liters of hand sanitizer and 500 masks to the Youth Action Posku, set up by the Secretariat of State of Youth and Sports, the Alumni Association of Youth Parliament (APFTL) and other youth organizations, to enable youth volunteers to continue to help vulnerable families clean their house. UNICEF, with EU support, also started specific activities for adolescents in 10 evacuation facilities, with life-skills based education (LSBE) sessions scheduled over two weeks for a first batch of adolescents. About 200 adolescents and youth are taking part in this training facilitated by APFTL and current adolescent members of the National Youth Parliament, and developing skills such as self-awareness, coping with emotions and reflecting on gender roles.
Humanitarian Leadership, Coordination and Strategy

On 8 April, the Government declared a state of calamity in Dili for a period of 30 days and requested for international assistance. The operational coordination of the flood response is led by the Secretariat of State for Civil Protection, which holds daily operational coordination meetings. Humanitarian coordination is organized by sectors led by line ministries with UN agencies as co-leads. UNICEF co-leads the WASH, nutrition and education sectors and the child protection sub-group within the gender and protection sector. It also plays an active role in the health sector. As such, UNICEF staff are playing a key role in various needs assessments currently underway, as well as in ensuring information sharing, coordination and advocacy.

Human Interest Stories and External Media

Life skill based education (LSBE) facilitated by the Alumni Association of Youth Parliament (APFTL): 
https://www.facebook.com/1644712099120032/posts/2883438845247345/?d=n

The launch of the floating platform to send fresh water across the flooded lake: 
https://www.facebook.com/1644712099120032/posts/2882962218628341/?d=n

Week three at child-friendly spaces: https://www.facebook.com/1644712099120032/posts/2882926428631920/?d=n

Next SitRep: 5 May 2021

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