Highlights

- This UNICEF Situation Report complements the UN 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 44 fatalities and affected 33,835 households across Timor-Leste. Of those, 82% - or 27,622 households - are in Dili municipality. The Secretariat of State for Civil Protection estimates that there are still 1,743 temporarily displaced persons in 13 evacuation facilities across Dili.
- UNICEF handed over 200,000 water purification tablets to the Ministry of Health, for use in both evacuation centres and affected communities. UNICEF continued to support children, adolescents and mothers in evacuation centres, with activities focused on psychosocial support (over 1,000 children reached), learning (460 children reached), and life skills-based education (over 200 adolescents reached), as well as WASH, health and nutrition assistance. As families continued to return home, UNICEF is also increasing its focus on affected communities, including community-based Mental Health and Psychosocial Support.

UNICEF’s Funding Status

- Health: 39%
- Nutrition: 49%
- Child Protection: 38%
- Education: 33%
- WASH: 50%
- Non-Food Items: 75%
- Social Protection: 33%

UNICEF floods needs US$ 2.06 million

Funding Status (in US$)

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

© UNICEF Timor-Leste 2021

Situation in Numbers

- 250+: Under five children in evacuation centres in Dili
- 33,835: Total affected households across country
- 1,743: Internally displaced people (IDPs) in Dili
- 44: Fatalities

1 The official fatality figures includes 14 missing persons.
Funding Overview and Partnerships

UNICEF needs US$ 2,060,000 to sustain the 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 that 13 evacuation facilities are still operating in Dili municipality, where 1,743 people – or 394 households – are temporarily sheltered. This is 1,269 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 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. On 28 April, the President renewed the State of Emergency for another 30 days, and the lockdown in Dili municipality that had been temporarily suspended after the floods was reinstated from 30 April. A sanitary fence is in place in 3 of the country’s 13 municipalities, including Dili, thus limiting the movement of people. As of 21 May, there were 2,398 active cases of COVID-19.

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 including 2,735 cleaning kits, 1,909 plastic mats, 1,956 blankets, 180 tarpaulins, 267 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 close to 30,000 people. The focus on NFIs has now shifted toward supporting pregnant and lactating women and young children, with 33 family hygiene kits distributed in the last two weeks.

WASH

UNICEF handed over 200,000 water purification tablets to the Ministry of Health (MoH) for distribution to flood-affected families both in communities and in evacuation centres. Over 130 households in communities will receive the tablets in
May and more households will receive them the following month. UNICEF also handed over 100 portable water containers to support families when they treat water with the tablets and 1,000 flyers on how to use the tablets. In addition, UNICEF continued to support the Government to identify a sustainable way to provide clean water to the stranded community across a flooded lake in Dili Municipality. UNICEF completed the assessment of a borehole in the community for use as a water source. As the water was found to be contaminated, UNICEF and MoH will take further actions to find an alternative way to source clean water.

**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. UNICEF also provided technical support to the flood assessment in 4 municipalities (Liquica, Baucau, Ermera, and Viqueque), and identified key gaps in service delivery.

**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 Alola and other partners, supported the Ministry of Health (MoH) to respond. Forty-four mother support group (MSG) members supported the MoH 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 two weeks, a total of 464 children were screened in 17 evacuation centres, none of whom were found to suffer from SAM. MSG members also provided counselling services to 504 mothers (81 pregnant women, 202 mothers of children 0-23 months and 221 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 1,000 children reached since the start of the flood response. Eleven CFS remain operational as one CFS closed during the reporting period, as families returned home. A closure activity was held, in the presence of the Vice Minister of MSSI and UNICEF representative, to prepare children to cope with changes in post-floods life and COVID-19 lockdown, and to reflect on their identity, improve self-awareness, build confidence, and nurture resilience to confront challenges. Preparation for the closure of other CFS and their transition to community-based Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) are underway, including training and mentoring volunteers identified from the communities, procurement of goods, mapping of specialized services, and identifying referral pathways. UNICEF also continued its support of the Ministry of Health’s national hotline for MHPSS, including regular training for operators. Delivery of non-food items (NFI) to affected families also continued, including family kits, portable lamps, mosquito repellent for children and child protection, and gender-based violence (GBV) referral network posters, in collaboration with MSSI and the Commission on the Rights of the Child. In addition, UNICEF provided support to Child Protection Officer in 13 Municipalities to coordinate responses to children affected by floods.

**Education**

UNICEF continued to support learning activities in evacuation centres, initially in 8 centres and currently in 5, as some centres have been closed, and has reached 460 children in total. Extra masks and hand sanitizers were provided to the volunteers who are facilitating activities. In addition, 80 copies of the School Readiness manual including daily activities was printed and distributed for use by volunteers and supervisors. UNICEF has signed a Small-Scale Funding Agreement with the Timor-Leste Coalition for Education to support the work of the volunteers and ensure continuity of activities in evacuation centres. As some of the evacuees at the centres have tested positive for COVID-19, UNICEF has proposed to the Secretariat of State for Civil Protection a targeted campaign to be conducted at centres on COVID-19 prevention.
Social Protection and Inclusion
The first-round of life-skills based education (LSBE) sessions, carried out by trained facilitators from APFTL and some current adolescent members of the National Youth Parliament, concluded in 10 evacuation centres, where they reached over 200 adolescents. UNICEF provided further supplies, including masks and hand sanitizers, to support the second-round of LSBE, which will be carried out in 4 evacuation centres for an expected 70 adolescents. A greater number of facilitators will be assigned at each location, which will help handle the large number of participants in some locations, as well as the presence of younger children, who need to be kept busy so that adolescents can focus on the training. These European Union-supported activities include a strong focus on violence prevention and gender equality.

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. 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 needs assessments, information sharing, coordination and advocacy, as well as in the Floods Response Plan/Joint Appeal that is currently being developed by the Government with support from the UN and other humanitarian partners.

Human Interest Stories and External Media
Water purification tablets hand-over: https://www.facebook.com/uniceftimorleste/posts/2894030517521511
Evacuation centre closure activity in Metiaut, Dili: https://www.facebook.com/uniceftimorleste/posts/2891019467822616
EU ambassador visit to one of the evacuation centres to see LSBE: https://www.facebook.com/uniceftimorleste/posts/2890494421208454

Next SitRep: 5 June 2021

Who to contact for further information:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Contact Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bilal Aurang Zeb Durrani</td>
<td>Representative UNICEF Timor-Leste</td>
<td>Tel: (+670) 7888 0345 Email: <a href="mailto:bazdurrani@unicef.org">bazdurrani@unicef.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scott Whoolery</td>
<td>Deputy Representative UNICEF Timor-Leste</td>
<td>Tel: (+670) 7723 1101 Email: <a href="mailto:swhoolery@unicef.org">swhoolery@unicef.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rukshan Ratnam</td>
<td>Communication Specialist UNICEF Timor-Leste</td>
<td>Tel: (+670) 7723 1103 Email: <a href="mailto:rratnam@unicef.org">rratnam@unicef.org</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

© Ba Futuro 2021/ J. Barreto