



A UNICEF team is demonstrating how to use water purification drops to people displaced by the floods in Nuwakot © UNICEF Nepal.

31 August 2026

Highlights

- Nepal flash floods have affected an estimated 65,000 people, including 22,100 children, across Rasuwa, Nuwakot, Dhading, Gorkha and Tanahun districts. An estimated 903 people have been reported dead, while approximately 4,247 remain missing¹. The death toll continues to rise.
- Many families have been displaced, with most staying with host families, while others are sheltering in Government-run holding centers.
- Critical infrastructure has been badly affected, including six health facilities and at least 19 schools destroyed or damaged, disrupting children's access to healthcare, safe water, education and protection services.
- UNICEF delivers life-saving support across water sanitation and hygiene (WASH), health, nutrition, child protection, social protection, education and risk communication, while strengthening local and national systems and capacities to sustain service delivery, support recovery and build resilience to future emergencies.
- Critical UNICEF supplies for about 19,000 people have been provided to Rasuwa and Nuwakot districts. These include hygiene kits, buckets, soap, disinfectant, collapsible jerrycans, water purification products and risk communication materials.
- UNICEF urgently requires US\$17.2 million to support immediate humanitarian response for affected children and families. Internal resources have been mobilized to kick-start the response, but additional funding is urgently needed.

¹Source, NDRRMA, as of 31 August 2026

*The figures are preliminary inter-agency estimates as of 31 August and are subject to change as further information is available. The estimates number of affected children is based on UNICEF calculation of approx. 35 per cent of the total affected population, based on Census data.

**The funding requirement is based on the preliminary estimates and subject to change upon needs become clearer

*** The available funding of 23% includes US\$2.5 million EPF loan.

UNICEF Nepal

Humanitarian Situation

Report No. 1 –

Rasuwa Flood

unicef 

for every child

Situation in Numbers*

65,000

People targeted for assistance

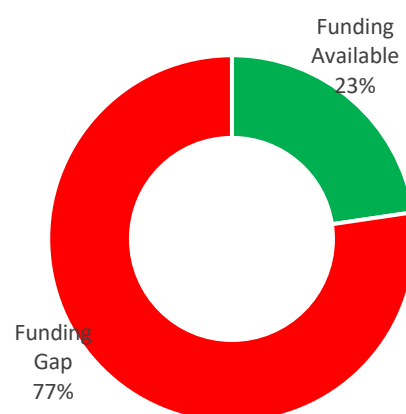
22,100

Children targeted for assistance

Funding Requirement**

USD 17.2 million

Status of Funding



Funding Overview and Partnerships

UNICEF requires US\$17.2 million to meet the immediate, lifesaving needs of children and families affected by the floods. UNICEF is grateful for early support from the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), the Government of Switzerland through the rapid reprogramming of existing resources, UNICEF support through the Australian and German National Committees, as well as global humanitarian thematic funding and UNICEF's Emergency Programme Fund (EPF)² which have enabled the immediate provision of critical supplies and services.

These resources are supporting interventions across health, nutrition, WASH, education, child protection, social protection and risk communication. Additional funding is urgently needed to sustain and scale up the immediate response as access improves and the full extent of humanitarian needs becomes clearer. UNICEF is participating in the inter-agency appeal process currently being initiated and will align its response planning with the broader humanitarian response framework. Funding requirements will continue to be updated as assessments progress.

Beyond immediate lifesaving assistance, affected children and families will require support to restore essential services and livelihoods and rebuild more resilient education, health and WASH infrastructure. Timely and flexible contributions will be critical to complement the Government-led response and respond to evolving humanitarian needs.

Under the leadership of the Government of Nepal, UNICEF is working closely with humanitarian partners to support a timely and effective response, while strengthening systems and resilience.

Humanitarian Leadership, Coordination and Strategy

The Government of Nepal is leading the response to the floods through the National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC), the Ministry of Home Affairs and the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority (NDRRMA).

Under the overall coordination of the Government of Nepal and within the inter-agency cluster coordination framework, UNICEF is co-leading the WASH and Nutrition clusters, Education with Save the Children, and Protection with UNFPA, and is an active member of the Health Cluster. UNICEF is also working closely with national and subnational government counterparts, UN agencies, national and international NGOs and other humanitarian partners through established inter-agency coordination mechanisms, and through the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT), to support a coordinated inter-agency response.

Cluster coordination mechanisms support information sharing, assessment of priority needs, and response planning. As access improves and assessments progress, these mechanisms will guide the prioritization of assistance for affected children, women and other vulnerable populations.

Situation Overview, Humanitarian Needs and Response

Severe flash flooding on 26 August 2026 has affected an estimated 65,000 people, including 22,100 children³, with the scale of the impact expected to increase as more affected areas become accessible. The Government has declared 15 municipalities across Rasuwa, Nuwakot, Dhading, Gorkha and Tanahun disaster-affected areas for three months.

Children face multiple risks from loss of family members, displacement, destruction of homes and schools, disruption of essential services and psychological distress. Children separated from their families or unaccompanied face heightened protection risks, including violence, exploitation, abuse and trafficking.

² UNICEF's internal emergency financing mechanism provides Country Offices with rapid, flexible funding to scale up response while additional resources are being mobilized.

³ The earlier media release referred to "more than 17,000 children" based on preliminary estimates. The current sitrep uses updated figures as the full scale of the impact becomes clearer.

Damage to water systems and health facilities is increasing disease risks and disrupting health and nutrition services, while damaged schools are affecting children's learning and access to safe environments.

The loss of livelihoods, productive assets and essential infrastructure is further increasing the vulnerability of affected families and is likely to prolong humanitarian needs. UNICEF and partners are scaling up lifesaving assistance, while preparing to conduct further assessments as access improves and affected areas become reachable.

Health

Situation and Needs

Four health facilities in Rasuwa have been destroyed and two facilities in Dhading partially damaged, reducing access to trauma care and essential health services. Cold-chain equipment at Syabrubesi Health Post is presumed lost, while equipment at Baireni Hospital requires assessment and possible replacement to maintain vaccine storage and delivery.

Displacement, overcrowding and limited access to safe water and sanitation are increasing the risk of communicable diseases, while disruption to routine services is affecting access to maternal, newborn and child health care. Priority needs include essential healthcare, disease prevention, maternal and newborn care, and mental health and psychosocial support.

Response

UNICEF is coordinating with government counterparts and partners to support the continuity of essential health services in affected areas. A trained mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) team comprising one psychiatrist, two clinical psychologists and one psychosocial counsellor has been deployed to support affected populations and frontline responders and has provided MHPSS support to 1,052 people including 237 children and adolescents. Prepositioned supplies, including 433 bed nets, 500 newborn kits and three medical tents, are being dispatched to affected areas. UNICEF is supporting disease surveillance and public health monitoring to identify emerging health risks and prevent outbreaks.

As access improves, UNICEF will scale up the delivery of essential medicines, vaccines and health supplies, alongside integrated health, nutrition and WASH interventions to address priority health risks and outbreak preparedness. UNICEF will also support the restoration and strengthening of affected health services, with a focus on climate resilience and disaster preparedness. This will include restoring cold-chain capacity and supporting solar-powered health facilities, climate-resilient WASH infrastructure and community-based early warning systems to strengthen preparedness for future shocks.

Nutrition

Situation and Needs

Disruptions to food systems, health services and caregiving practices are increasing nutritional risks for children and women in affected areas. Displacement and disrupted access to essential services are increasing the risks of malnutrition, micronutrient deficiencies and sub-optimal infant and young child feeding practices.

Among an estimated 22,100 affected children, some 2,600 children under five are expected to require treatment for severe wasting. While this caseload is not attributable to the floods, flood-related disruption to health and nutrition services, access constraints and limited RUTF stocks may affect children's ability to receive timely treatment. Approximately 10,500 pregnant and lactating women require nutrition support, including iron and folic acid (IFA) supplementation, while 28,317 adolescents require IFA supplementation.⁴

Limited national and provincial stocks of Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Food (RUTF) further constrain the nutrition response.

Response

⁴ Source: Health Management Information System (HMIS)

UNICEF has dispatched 500 cartons of prepositioned Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Food (RUTF) and 560 cartons of micronutrient powders (MNP) to support the immediate nutrition response in affected areas.

UNICEF will support nutrition assessments and screening for acute malnutrition to identify priority needs and ensure timely referral and treatment, including specialized care for children under five with severe acute malnutrition and medical complications. Support will also include infant and young child feeding (IYCF), nutrition counselling and micronutrient supplementation for affected children, pregnant and lactating women, and adolescents, integrated with health and WASH interventions. UNICEF will support the replenishment of national and provincial RUTF stocks to ensure uninterrupted treatment for children with severe acute malnutrition.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Situation and Needs

Flooding has damaged community and larger-scale water supply systems, leaving many families without access to safe drinking water. Damage to sanitation facilities and widespread displacement are further increasing hygiene and sanitation needs and heightening the risk of waterborne disease outbreaks.

Approximately 13,000 households, including 65,000 people, require immediate access to safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene support. Priorities include restoring safe water supplies, providing emergency sanitation and hygiene services, and strengthening disease prevention and risk communication.

Response

Critical WASH supplies for about 19,000 people have been provided to Rasuwa and Nuwakot districts. These include hygiene kits, buckets, soaps, disinfectants, collapsible jerrycans, water purification products and risk communication materials. Supplies released to date include 4,000 bottles of water treatment solution, 3,820 hygiene kits, 3,500 one-liter mugs, 3,300 collapsible 10-litre jerrycans, 3,500 plastic buckets, 1,050 tarpaulin sheets and 2,000 risk communication materials, including water-safety information materials.

UNICEF is working with government counterparts and partners on disease surveillance, hygiene promotion, risk communication and outbreak prevention, with a focus on reducing the risk of waterborne diseases. WASH messages on safe hygiene practices, water handling and household water treatment are being disseminated through social media and other communication channels.

UNICEF will scale up emergency WASH services in affected communities and holding centres as needs are verified, including safe water supply, household water treatment and water-quality monitoring, temporary sanitation and handwashing facilities, and essential hygiene and menstrual hygiene supplies.

As access improves, UNICEF will support the repair and rehabilitation of damaged water and sanitation systems, followed by climate-resilient and disaster-informed reconstruction to restore services and reduce vulnerability to future floods and other hazards.

Child Protection

Situation and Needs

Preliminary reports indicate that at least 107 children may have been separated from their parents or caregivers. Urgent priorities include identification and registration, family tracing and reunification, and alternative care where reunification is not immediately possible.

Displacement and increased population movement, particularly in border areas, are heightening risks of trafficking, exploitation, abuse and gender-based violence, requiring strengthened protection monitoring and support for children, women and girls.

An estimated 22,100 children require urgent child protection support, including MHPSS, family tracing and reunification, case management and referral services.

Response

UNICEF is delivering immediate MHPSS services to affected children and caregivers, including Psychological First Aid (PFA). Two psychosocial support helplines have been activated to provide counselling, facilitate

reporting and connect affected people with appropriate services. UNICEF is also supporting Government-led efforts to identify, register, trace and reunify unaccompanied and separated children.

UNICEF and partners will scale up MHPSS through child-friendly spaces, group and individual support, and referrals to specialized services. Support will also expand family tracing and reunification and alternative care where needed, while strengthening disability-inclusive case management, protection monitoring and referral pathways for children at risk of separation, trafficking, exploitation, abuse and gender-based violence. Community-based protection mechanisms and frontline capacity will also be strengthened to prevent and respond to protection risks throughout the response and recovery period.

Education

Situation and Needs:

At least 19 schools along the river corridor have been damaged, including eight completely and eight partially destroyed, with assessments ongoing for three others. An additional 80 schools within 1 km of the river may also have been affected. The Education Cluster reports 247 teachers, education personnel and students affected, including 18 reportedly swept away and 229 missing based on data collected from only eight schools. Five schools are currently serving as temporary shelters, further disrupting children's access to education for some 3,000 additional children.

Many affected schools have also lost textbooks, furniture, computers, recreational materials and other essential teaching and learning supplies, while damaged classrooms and infrastructure have reduced access to safe learning environments. More than 10,000 school-age children require immediate psychosocial support and access to safe and protective learning spaces to help them cope with trauma, continue learning and regain a sense of routine and normalcy.

Response

UNICEF is working with the Government and partners to finalize the education response plan and conduct a rapid damage and loss assessment for the education sector in affected districts. Pre-positioned education supplies are being dispatched to affected areas, and efforts are underway to establish temporary learning spaces for children whose schools have been destroyed or are unusable.

Immediate priorities include rapid assessments of damage and loss, establishing temporary learning spaces with appropriate WASH facilities, distributing essential learning supplies, and providing psychosocial support for affected children and teachers. UNICEF is also deploying Information Management capacity to strengthen cluster coordination and reporting.

As the response progresses, UNICEF will support the rehabilitation and reconstruction of damaged learning facilities using climate-resilient and disaster-informed approaches to strengthen the education system's resilience to future shocks.

Shock-Responsive Social Protection and Humanitarian Cash Transfers

Situation and Needs:

More than 13,000 affected households, including an estimated 22,100 children, require immediate cash assistance to meet basic needs and reduce the risk of negative coping strategies that could have long-term consequences for children.

Beyond the immediate response, vulnerable households are likely to require continued support due to loss of assets and livelihoods, reduced income and increased expenses. Priority needs are expected to be greatest among families with children under five, children with disabilities and children receiving child protection services.

Response

UNICEF is working with the government and partners to prepare for the delivery of cash assistance through existing shock-responsive social protection systems. A market assessment is underway to explore market functionality and the viability of cash-based assistance.

Based on market conditions, UNICEF will support a multipurpose cash transfer of NPR 15,000 (approximately US\$100) to around 13,000 affected households during the first three months, using existing government delivery mechanisms where feasible and linking families to UNICEF-supported WASH and child protection services.

As the response progresses, approximately 3,000 particularly vulnerable families, including those with children under five, children with disabilities and children receiving child protection services, will receive quarterly cash transfers equivalent to NPR 2,000 (approximately US\$15) per month for 15 months.

UNICEF will also work with the Government to strengthen shock-responsive social protection systems and link affected households to existing social protection programmes and longer-term support.

Social and Behavioral Change, Risk Communication, Community Engagement and Accountability to the Affected Populations

Situation and Needs:

Flood-affected children, families and communities require timely, trusted and actionable information to access assistance, reduce health and protection risks, and make informed decisions. Information gaps, rumours and misinformation can create confusion, undermine trust and increase risks.

Strong community engagement, feedback and social listening mechanisms are critical to identify emerging concerns, address misinformation and ensure assistance remains relevant, inclusive and responsive to affected communities.

Response

UNICEF is working with government, private-sector and community partners to provide verified, lifesaving information through mobile messaging, radio, social media and community networks. Mobile subscribers can access validated advisories without data charges, while a network of more than 600 practitioners is extending outreach to affected communities. Social and community listening is tracking concerns, information gaps, rumours and misinformation, and helping identify emerging needs.

UNICEF will expand Accountability to Affected Populations Pillars, including on-ground community engagement and social listening, real-time data analysis, and mobile-powered community feedback tools, and deploy additional field capacity to support the assessment and inform sectors toward continued, adapted, and improved people-centered response. Community feedback will inform operational decisions and help ensure children, women, the elderly, people living with disabilities and other vulnerable groups can safely access information and assistance.

UNICEF's Operational Presence

To strengthen field-level coordination and response, UNICEF has deployed a Field Coordinator to Nuwakot to liaise with district and local authorities and humanitarian partners, provide real-time information from affected areas, and facilitate the delivery of humanitarian assistance.

Supply and Logistics

UNICEF is scaling up the dispatch of pre-positioned health, nutrition, WASH and education supplies, including psychosocial and recreational materials.

Additional lifesaving supplies are being mobilized from UNICEF's global supply hub in Copenhagen, alongside local and offshore procurement.

UNICEF has also deployed logistics capacity to Nuwakot to coordinate the movement, distribution and tracking of supplies and support timely delivery to affected communities.

Funding Requirement

Sector	Requirements in US\$
Health	2,182,800
Nutrition	963,000

Water Sanitation and Hygiene	5,617,500
Child Protection	909,500
Education	2,675,000
Social Policy/Humanitarian Cash Transfer	2,407,500
Social Behavior Change	347,750
Cross-sectoral	2,140,000
Total	17,243,050

Media, communications and visibility

- [Press Release - Flash Floods in Nepal leave more than 17,000 children in need of urgent humanitarian assistance](#)
- UNICEF was on the ground right after the disaster and witnessed the impact on children: [Preena explainer in Nuwakot](#)
- Supplies were handed over to the Government and transported by helicopter to the people most in need: [Pooja supply video](#)
- Human interest story on the impact of the disaster on children: ["I didn't know where my parents were"](#)
- First hand account of [escaping the floods from Samir, 21, from Nuwakot](#)
- All multimedia media assets are available at [WeShare - Nepal](#)

Media interviews completed:

- [ABC TV Australia](#)
- [9 News Australia](#)
- [CNN](#)
- [CNN](#)
- [TeleTicino News](#)
- [Al Jazeera](#)
- [BBC News](#)
- [Sky News](#)

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