



Humanitarian Action for Children

Andrea, 14, lives with her family in their damaged house in Surigao City. She lost her house, school supplies, and books. The water supply in her neighborhood has been disrupted, and latrines were destroyed.

# **Philippines**

## **HIGHLIGHTS**

- An estimated 2.4 million people,<sup>1</sup> including 912,000<sup>2</sup> children, will need humanitarian assistance due to the devastating impact of Super Typhoon Rai. Overnight, thousands of families lost their houses and livelihoods. In addition, public services have been damaged, water and sanitation systems destroyed, electrical power and communication lines interrupted. The extent of the needs is much greater when initially assessed by UN partners and the Government in December 2021. Moreover, the Typhoon comes as the country battles the fourth wave of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Together with its partners and the private sector, UNICEF augments the Government's relief efforts to implement its humanitarian, and resilience-building programme while maintaining solid emergency preparedness and response capacity.
- UNICEF appeals for US\$39.8 million to provide humanitarian services to 492,000 people and 293,000 children. The funds will support basic services delivery and recovery, focusing on impoverished families affected by Typhoon and the COVID-19 mitigation and response.

IN NEED

2.4 million people

912,000 children<sup>3</sup>

TO BE REACHED

491,813

people<sup>4</sup>

293,300 children<sup>5</sup>

## KEY PLANNED TARGETS



2,700

children admitted for treatment for severe acute malnutrition



277,000

children and women accessing health care

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

US\$ 39.8



2.3 million

people reached with handwashing behaviour-change programmes



92,000

women and children accessing gender-based violence mitigation, prevention, response

## **HUMANITARIAN SITUATION AND NEEDS**

On 16 December 2021, Super Typhoon Rai (locally called Odette) swept through the Philippines. It brought with it torrential rains, violent winds, floods, and storm surges that resulted in 409 deaths, thousands of injuries, and over half a million displaced. The Typhoon severely disrupted essential services, resulting in widespread humanitarian needs.

Sixteen million people live in severely affected areas, and 2.4 million people, including 912,000 children, require humanitarian assistance. Over 140,000 people still live in evacuation centers. The Typhoon has taken a significant toll on the most vulnerable, especially children, who are faced with increased risks to their survival and physical and mental wellbeing.

The Typhoon disrupted access to safe water and sanitation facilities, heightening the risk of infectious disease outbreaks, including cholera. Some 2.4 million people<sup>8</sup> need WASH support, as over 141 water structures and over 410 sanitation facilities have been destroyed.<sup>9</sup> Affected families are now relying on springs and hand pumps for water, many of which are contaminated by flood and sea waters. Water and sanitation facilities in all affected schools and health centres have been damaged. Hygiene promotion remains an overarching priority.

With some 220 health facilities, 40 percent of health stations being damaged across the affected regions, <sup>10</sup> the health system faces enormous challenges, which is further compounded by a resurgence of COVID-19 infections. Lack of health and nutrition human resources is a concern. Maintaining access to life-saving assistance, including maternal and child health, needs prioritization. Over 133,000 children are at risk of acute severe malnutrition.

High displacement rates and heightened risks of gender-based violence create psychosocial and mental health challenges for children. Children in the displacement sites are at higher risk of violence, with girls and women particularly at risk of sexual violence. Children with disabilities are especially vulnerable.

The Typhoon comes as the country continues to battle the COVID-19 pandemic and the recent surge caused by the Omicron variant. Since the start of the pandemic, 3.5 million positive COVID-19 cases, with 202,884 active cases and 58,300 deaths have been reported. <sup>11</sup>

The impact of the Typhoon on the education of children, who are already profoundly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, is devastating. Since March 2020, schools have been closed, and their reopening in the affected areas will be further delayed unless urgent action is taken. The Department of Education estimates that 89 percent of 29,671<sup>12</sup> schools in the affected areas have sustained damage impacting the education of 14.8 million learners.<sup>13</sup>

# SECTOR NEEDS14



133,800

children are at risk of severe acute malnutrition



**2.4 million** people need health



**2.4 million** people need WASH



912,000

services

children in need of protection services 15



711,000

children in need of education in emergency support

# STORY FROM THE FIELD



Reymond Polleros, 7, looks after his brother Randel, 3, inside an evacuation center in Dinagat Island, Philippines, where families displaced by Typhoon Rai remain.

Reymon Polleros, 7, currently lives with his family at an evacuation centre in Dinagat Island. The Typhoon displaced the family as it made landfall on 16 December and destroyed their home.

Reymon takes care of his younger brother Randel, 3, who is malnourished. "When the village health worker checked on him in October [2021], he only weighed 11 kilograms," said their mother, Monilyn. She fears that his health might be declining during their stay in the evacuation centre.

Even before the Typhoon hit and with the COVID-19 pandemic, the nutrition situation of children in affected areas was precarious.

Read more about this story here

## **HUMANITARIAN STRATEGY**

UNICEF supports the efforts of the Government to restore access to essential health, nutrition, water, sanitation, hygiene, education, and child protection services, primarily focusing on the most affected and vulnerable children and women. The Core Commitment to Children in Humanitarian Action guides UNICEF's response to the COVID-19 pandemic and Typhoon Rai.

Together with the Government, UNICEF co-leads the nutrition, education, WASH clusters, and child protection sub-cluster supporting emergency response and preparedness efforts - including prepositioning emergency supplies which allow for a timely response to the most urgent needs. UNICEF's robust field presence allows for the rapid scale-up of activities through expanded partnerships for programmes in hard-to-reach areas.

For the response to Typhoon Rai, UNICEF's water and sanitation programme will establish safe, sustainable water supply systems: maintaining, upgrading, and expanding the water structures, sanitation facilities, and distributing hygiene kits and information. To meet the significant needs in the WASH sector and to prevent the risk of infectious disease outbreaks, UNICEF will prioritize clean water and sanitation for the affected population. UNICEF will repair water and sanitation facilities in affected schools and health centers.

UNICEF will implement life-saving health and nutrition interventions through a community-based programme for affected girls, boys, adolescents, mothers, and newborns. In 2022, UNICEF will expand its Risk Communication and Community Engagement strategies to reach families affected by Typhoon Rai and the COVID-19 pandemic. UNICEF will also support nutrition services targeting children and pregnant/lactating mothers. Infection prevention and response measures will be mainstreamed.

UNICEF will also implement prevention campaigns and specialized services targeting survivors of gender-based violence and specialized case management. UNICEF aims to scale up its mental health and psychosocial support programme.

Vulnerable children will participate in safe and protective educational programmes that allow for the continuation of learning despite the closure of schools. UNICEF will work with the Department of Education to support the safe reopening of schools. In addition, infection prevention and control measures will also be conducted in schools.

Using government-supported social protection schemes, the most vulnerable children and families will receive cash assistance.

Building on its Country Programme, UNICEF pursues a balanced approach between providing immediate life-saving assistance, investing in systems strengthening, and building the resilience of services and communities. UNICEF is currently expanding its programme monitoring to engage communities in the design, reach, and quality of its interventions. Furthermore, UNICEF programmes are informed by a solid risk analysis and linked to early recovery. UNICEF prioritizes gender, disability, equity, mainstreaming PSEA<sup>17</sup>, and AAP<sup>18</sup> in its humanitarian response.

## **2022 PROGRAMME TARGETS**



#### **Nutrition**

- 2,700 children aged 6 to 59 months with severe acute malnutrition admitted for treatment
- **64,350** children aged 6 to 59 months receiving vitamin A supplementation
- 95,900 children 0-59 months screened for wasting



#### Health

- **53,000** children aged 6 to 59 months vaccinated against measles <sup>19</sup>
- 277,000 children and women accessing primary health care in UNICEF-supported facilities
- 106,800 healthcare workers and communities provided with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)



# Water, sanitation and hygiene

- 277,500 people accessing a sufficient quantity of safe water for drinking and domestic needs
- 245,500 people use safe and appropriate sanitation facilities
- 2,276,500 people reached with hand-washing behaviourchange programmes
- 253,500 people reached with hygiene kits including items for the menstrual hygiene management



## Child protection, GBViE and PSEA

- 107,000 children and parents/caregivers accessing mental health and psychosocial support
- 92,000 women, girls and boys accessing gender-based violence risk mitigation, prevention and/or response interventions
- 175,000 people who have access to a safe and accessible channel to report sexual exploitation and abuse by aid workers<sup>20</sup>



# **Education**

- 259,508 children accessing formal or non-formal education, including early learning<sup>21</sup>
- 10,975 children with disabilities supported to access learning, including remote/ distance learning and return to school
- 5,888 teachers and education personnel trained



## **Social protection**

 9,700 households reached with cash transfers through an existing government system where UNICEF provided technical assistance and/or funding<sup>22</sup>



## Cross-sectoral (HCT, C4D, RCCE and AAP)

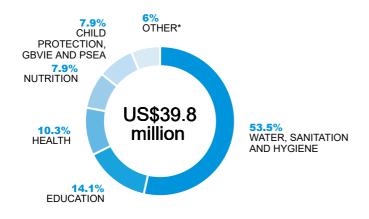
- 483,595 people reached through messaging on prevention and access to services
- 10,600 people engaged in risk communication and community engagement actions

## **FUNDING REQUIREMENTS IN 2022**

UNICEF appeals for US\$39.8 million to provide humanitarian services to 492,000 people and 293,000 children in the Philippines. The appeal covers two pillars: (a) nationwide COVID-19 prevention and response with 28 percent of overall funding and (b) UNICEF's humanitarian preparedness and response to Typhoon Rai affected areas in 11 regions with 72 percent of overall funding.

Flexible and timely humanitarian funding is required to meet the pressing needs of children and their families in disaster-affected areas, who are experiencing the devastating impacts of Typhoon Rai and the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic. Notably due to the WASH sector's significant unmet needs, UNICEF's WASH appeal constitutes 53 percent of the overall requirements. The funding is essential to prevent infectious disease outbreaks, support the families to restore their family sanitation facilities, and provide access to safe drinking water.

Unless immediate resources are made available, affected communities will likely remain displaced for an extended period of time, and children will not be able to access life-saving services. Any long-term displacement and lack of services are associated with increased health and nutrition risks, an increased risk for gender-based violence as well as protection concerns for children, and an unrecoverable learning loss.



Sector	2022 requirements (US\$) <sup>23</sup>
Nutrition	3,154,341
Health	4,092,964
Water, sanitation and hygiene	<b>21,270,954</b> <sup>24</sup>
Child protection, GBViE and PSEA	<b>3,147,962</b> <sup>25</sup>
Education	5,608,508
Social protection	1,188,000
Cross-sectoral (HCT, C4D, RCCE and AAP)	<b>1,298,942</b> <sup>26</sup>
Total	39,761,671

<sup>\*</sup>This includes costs from other sectors/interventions : Cross-sectoral (HCT, C4D, RCCE and AAP) (3.3%), Social protection (3.0%).

## **ENDNOTES**

- 1. Philippines: Super Typhoon Rai (Odette) Humanitarian Needs and Priorities, OCHA, January 2022
- 2. 38% of the population are children under the age of 18. Population census 2015. PHILIPPINE STATISTICS AUTHORITY
- 3. 38% of the population are children under the age of 18. Population census 2015, PHILIPPINE STATISTICS AUTHORITY. Males accounted for 50.6% of the country's total population in 2015, while females comprised the remaining 49.4%. PHILIPPINE STATISTICS AUTHORITY Census 2015. Disability prevalence in the Philippines registers at 12 % according to National Disability Prevalence Survey, PHILIPPINE STATISTICS AUTHORITY, 2019
- 4. This target is a sum of 3 indicators: 1. # people accessing a sufficient quantity of safe water for drinking and domestic needs (189,625); 2. "#households reached with cash transfers through an existing government system where UNICEF provided technical assistance and/or funding (42,680)and 3. # children accessing formal or non-formal education, including early learning (259,508). 12% are people with any form of disability. PHILIPPINE STATISTICS AUTHORITY
- 5. This target is a sum of 3 indicators: 1. # people accessing a sufficient quantity of safe water for drinking and domestic needs (38% children 17,574); 2."#households reached with cash transfers through an existing government system where UNICEF provided technical assistance and/or funding. "(38% are children 16,218) 3. # children accessing formal or non-formal education, including early learning (259,508). 12% of the population have any form of disability. PHILIPPINE STATISTICS AUTHORITY
- 6. Philippines: Super Typhoon Rai (Odette) Humanitarian Needs and Priorities. OCHA. December 2021
- 7. Shelter cluster estimate January 2022
- 8. WASH Cluster estimate January 2022
- 9. Disaster Response Operations Monitoring and Information Center (DROMIC), 13 December 2021 report
- 10. WHO January 2022 report
- 11. WHO January 2022 report
- 12. Department of Education report, 26 January 2022
- 13. Department of Education report, January 2022
- 14. The sector needs were re-accessed by over 65 assessments done by humanitarian partners and the Government in December and January. The extent of the needs is much greater when initially assessed. Hence the UN partners recalibrated their humanitarian planning processes by publishing the revised Humanitarian Needs and Priorities Document in February 2022.
- 15. 2.4 million people are in need of protection services, Protection cluster estimate. 38% of the population are children
- 16. Accountability to Affected Population (AAP)
- 17. Prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse ( PSEA)
- 18. Accountability to affected populations (AAP)
- 19. UNICEF targets include COVID-19, Typhoon Rai and preparedness
- This target will be reached my all the programs and not only child protection.
- 21. This target includes children that will be receiving individual learning materials
- 22. The national average for the county is 4.4 person per household. Census 2015, PHILIPPINE STATISTICS AUTHORITY
- 23. The overall requirements include contribution to planning, monitoring, evaluation, operation running and the HQ recovery costs
- 24. Due to the WASH sector's significant unmet needs, UNICEF's WASH appeal constitutes 53% of overall requirements. The funding is essential to preventing the risk of infectious disease outbreaks, supporting the families to restore their family sanitation facilities, and providing access to safe drinking water.
- 25. The budget for the PSEA accounts to US\$165,000. The allocation will cover the prevention and mitigation activities across all the sectors of UNICEF response.
- 26. This requirement will cover Risk Communication and Community engagement activities and information dissemination on prevention and access to services. Accountability to the Affected population (AAP) activities is also budgeted here.