



Ongoing conflict in multiple states and regions in Myanmar continues to drive temporary new displacements. With UNICEF support, more than 1,100 displaced people in temporary settlements along the Thailand–Myanmar border have been reached with hygiene promotion activities.



Humanitarian Action for Children

East Asia and Pacific Region

HIGHLIGHTS

- East Asia and the Pacific remains the most disaster-prone region in the world.¹ In 2023, the region experienced cyclones, floods, landslides, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions and drought as well as civil and intercommunal conflict. The El Niño weather phenomenon is predicted to increase extreme weather events and slow-onset disasters in the region, compounding the already significant impacts of climate change.^{2,3}
- UNICEF supports country offices, governments and partners to manage disaster risk by strengthening emergency preparedness, building local and national capacities and providing technical expertise for child-sensitive, gender-sensitive and disability-inclusive humanitarian action. UNICEF maintains an agile system to rapidly deploy funding and technical personnel to respond to sudden-onset events.
- UNICEF is seeking \$75.8 million to respond to critical needs in 2024, including for emergency response and preparedness, and for programming to strengthen disaster risk reduction, conflict-sensitivity and climate resilience. Twenty-four countries and territories are directly covered by this regional appeal.

IN NEED⁴



11.8 million children missed first dose of measles vaccine⁵



1.5 million children affected by severe wasting⁶



81 million people lack basic water services⁷



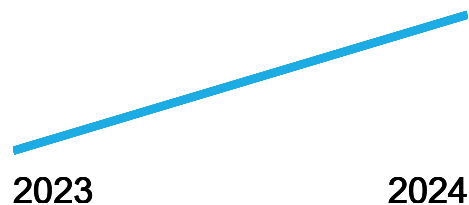
64 million people affected by disasters in Asia-Pacific⁸



This map does not reflect a position by UNICEF on the legal status of any country or territory or the delimitation of any frontiers. The countries in light blue are embedded in this regional appeal. The countries in dark blue have corresponding standalone appeals or are covered under crisis appeals.

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

US\$75.8 million



HUMANITARIAN SITUATION

East Asia and the Pacific remains the most disaster-prone region in the world. Children born in the region today are experiencing six times as many climate-related disasters as their grandparents.¹⁰ More than 210 million children are highly exposed to cyclones; 140 million to water scarcity; and 120 million to coastal flooding.¹¹ Several countries situated along the Pacific Ring of Fire are prone to earthquakes, volcanic eruptions and tsunamis. Climate change-induced disasters pose an increasingly serious threat to the region in the form of more frequent and intense cyclones, floods and droughts. Climate change is also contributing to the increased frequency and intensity of heatwaves, leading to more cases of heat stroke and dehydration among children. Climate change is also facilitating the spread of waterborne and vector-borne diseases, including diarrhoeal illnesses and dengue.¹²

In 2023, cyclones and severe storms impacted Myanmar, Vanuatu and the Philippines while the larger region also experienced floods, landslides, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, drought, disease outbreaks and civil and intercommunal conflict.

The El Niño weather phenomenon is predicted to strengthen through 2023 into 2024, increasing extreme weather events. It is expected to intensify drought conditions in Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Timor Leste and Viet Nam.^{13,9} This will likely exacerbate food shortages and water scarcity and compound conflict dynamics in some areas.¹⁴ El Niño also brings increased risk of flooding and heightened cyclone activity across the Pacific region. Women and children impacted by these events face higher risks of malnutrition and disrupted access to education and other essential services.

Protracted conflict and civil unrest continue to displace people from their homes and disrupt their access to basic services, including in the Highlands of Papua New Guinea and in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao in the Philippines. Deepening civil conflict in Myanmar is creating increasing numbers of refugees, with growing humanitarian needs, in particular along the Thailand-Myanmar border.

Disruption of basic services due to humanitarian crises, including health, education and social services, significantly exacerbates protection risks children face and heightens the risk of harmful practices affecting children's well-being. Girls and children with disabilities are particularly vulnerable.

HUMANITARIAN STRATEGY

Across the region, with technical assistance from the UNICEF East Asia and Pacific Regional Office, UNICEF country offices will focus on enhancing their own emergency preparedness and response capabilities, as well as those of their government counterparts and civil society and private sector partners. This will be done through establishing adequate preparedness measures and strengthening systems for child-sensitive and child-inclusive humanitarian action, in line with the Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action.

Country offices will swiftly initiate life-saving emergency support to children and their families in the areas of health, nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), child protection, psychosocial support, education and cash assistance. At the same time, they will continue to provide technical leadership and coordination across multiple sectors/clusters. The Regional Office will maintain systems to rapidly deploy funding and technical capacity to respond to sudden-onset emergencies across the region.

To strengthen programming within the humanitarian–development–peacebuilding nexus, UNICEF will analyse multidimensional risks and threats to children; integrate disaster risk reduction and climate change strategies into both humanitarian and development plans; and build inclusive shock-responsive social protection systems.

Working across sectors to holistically address the needs of children with disabilities, adolescents, women and girls in humanitarian settings, UNICEF will focus on addressing gender-based violence and enhancing accountability to affected populations and protection from sexual exploitation and abuse. Digital technology and innovative approaches promoting age, gender and disability inclusion will be used to ensure continuity and accessibility of services.

To ensure greater accountability, UNICEF will continue to evaluate its humanitarian work and advance knowledge management and evidence-based innovations.

This appeal is aligned with the revised Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action, which are based on global standards and norms for humanitarian action.

STORY FROM THE FIELD



Children on the island of Nguna in Vanuatu enjoy play-based psychosocial support activities after twin Tropical Cyclones Judy and Kevin destroyed much of their community in March 2023.

An estimated 58,000 children required humanitarian assistance after back-to-back cyclones hit Vanuatu in early March 2023.

On the small island of Nguna, an offshore island of Efate, in one of the worst hit provinces, children like Leiwia feared for their lives as the twin Tropical Cyclones Judy and Kevin destroyed their homes and schools.

"During the cyclone, we prayed and sat inside looking out at the cyclone through the gaps in the shutters of the house. I was afraid," Leiwia said.

In the aftermath of the double disaster, UNICEF supported play-based psychosocial support activities for children, adolescents and caregivers to help communities to recover from trauma.

[Read more about this story here](#)

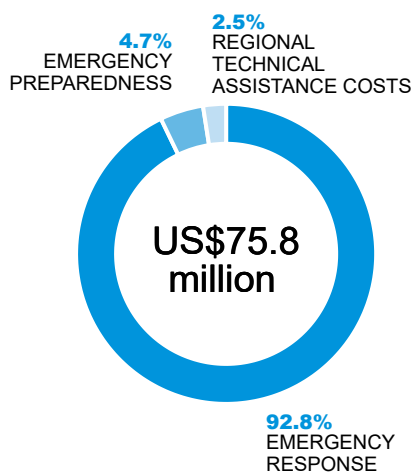
FUNDING REQUIREMENTS IN 2024

In 2024, the UNICEF East Asia and Pacific Regional Office requires \$75.8 million to meet the humanitarian needs of children, adolescents and women affected by emergencies. Of this, \$70.4 million will support humanitarian action in Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, Thailand, Tuvalu and Vanuatu and will enable UNICEF country offices to effectively respond to new sudden-onset emergencies within 24 hours.

The impacts of the current El Niño weather pattern will continue to be felt in 2024, with increasing numbers of children and women exposed to risks of malnutrition, disease outbreaks and disrupted access to education and other essential services in countries across the region. As climate hazards become more frequent, so too does the likelihood of interrelated shocks that compound impacts for vulnerable populations, increasing their humanitarian needs. The funds requested in this appeal will enable UNICEF to respond and take additional anticipatory actions to mitigate the impacts of both rapid-onset and slow-onset emergencies, including situations of food insecurity and prolonged drought.

As East Asia and the Pacific remains the most disaster-prone region in the world, UNICEF is augmenting its strategic investments to ensure country offices, government counterparts and other partners are ready to respond to emergencies by strengthening national and local capacities to analyse risks and their anticipated impacts on vulnerable groups, and ensure necessary actions are taken to enhance emergency preparedness systems at all levels. UNICEF will also mitigate disaster- and climate change-related risks and invest in strengthening the resilience of vulnerable communities, thus protecting development gains.

Without adequate and timely funding, UNICEF will be unable to effectively prepare for and immediately deploy needed support to uphold the rights of impacted children and families when emergencies strike.



Sector	2024 requirements (US\$)
Emergency Preparedness	3,554,750
Regional Technical Assistance Costs	1,874,700
Emergency response	70,396,589
Total	75,826,039

Who to contact for further information:

Debora Comini
Regional Director, East Asia and Pacific
T +6623569401
dcomini@unicef.org

Lana Wreikat
Director, Office of Emergency Programmes (EMOPS), a.i.
T +1 212 326 7150
lwreikat@unicef.org

June Kunugi
Director, Public Partnerships Division (PPD)
T +1 212 326 7118
jkunugi@unicef.org

ENDNOTES

1. UNICEF East Asia and Pacific Regional Office, Over the Tipping Point: How multiple, overlapping climate and environmental shocks and hazards on children in the East Asia and Pacific region are eroding their coping strategies, exacerbating inequality, and forever changing their futures 2023, UNICEF, May 2023, available at <www.unicef.org/eap/over-tipping-point>.
2. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), El Niño 2023 can aggravate food, energy and finance crises, web story, UNESCAP, 24 July 2023, available at <www.unescap.org/blog/el-nino-2023-can-aggravate-food-energy-and-finance-crises>.
3. ASEAN Specialised Meteorological Centre, Seasonal Outlook – El Niño, 13 September 2023, available at <<http://asmc.asean.org/asmc-el-nino/>>.
4. The in-need figures reflect the number of people with pressing needs in the major sectors that UNICEF supports in countries covered by this regional appeal.
5. The number of children under age 5 unvaccinated for MCV1 (the first dose of measles-containing vaccine) in the last five years (2018–2022). WHO/UNICEF Estimates of National Immunization Coverage, 2022 Revision, 22 July 2023, available at <www.who.int/publications/m/item/WUENIC_notes>.
6. UNICEF/WHO/World Bank Joint Child Malnutrition Estimates (Global and Regional), July 2023, available at <<https://data.unicef.org/topic/nutrition/malnutrition/>>.
7. WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene (JMP), Progress on Household Drinking Water, Sanitation and Hygiene 2000–2022, July 2023, available at <<https://washdata.org/reports/jmp-2023-wash-households>>.
8. Sixty-four million people were affected by climate-induced disasters in 2022, and it is estimated that this number will increase in the coming years as climate change makes natural hazards even more frequent and intense. Existing disaster hotspots are forecast to intensify and new disaster hotspots are beginning to appear. UNESCAP, Seizing the Moment: Targeting transformative disaster risk resilience, Asia-Pacific Disaster Report 2023, 25 July 2023, available at <www.unescap.org/kp/2023/seizing-moment-targeting-transformative-disaster-risk-resilience>.
9. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, Asia and the Pacific: El Niño Humanitarian Snapshot – Focus on the Philippines, Timor-Leste, Papua New Guinea and Indonesia (as of 30 September 2023), available at <www.unocha.org/publications/report/world/asia-and-pacific-el-nino-humanitarian-snapshot-focus-philippines-timor-leste-papua-new-guinea-and-indonesia-30-september-2023>.
10. UNICEF East Asia and Pacific Regional Office, Over the Tipping Point, 2023.
11. Ibid.
12. Ibid.
13. ASEAN Specialised Meteorological Centre, Seasonal Outlook - El Niño, 13 September, 2023.
14. UNESCAP, El Niño 2023 can aggravate food, energy and finance crises, 24 July 2023.