



Consolidated Emergency Report for 2018

Reporting Period 1 January to 31 December 2018

Prepared by UNICEF Philippines
March 2019

Children affected by the Marawi conflict play in an evacuation center in Pantao Ragat, Lanao del Norte. UNICEF provides Child Friendly Spaces during emergencies through supervised and structured activities to help children recover from traumatic experiences.

Photo credit: CFSI/2018

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Abbreviation and Acronyms

AFP	Armed Forces of the Philippines
ARMM	Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao
BARMM	Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao
CALABARZON	Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal, and Quezon
CAR	Cordillera Administrative Region
CARAGA	Caraga Administrative Region
CERF	Central Emergency Response Fund
CFS	Child Friendly Space
CSAC	Children in Situations of Armed Conflict
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DepEd	Department of Education
DOH	Department of Health
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
DRRM	Disaster Risk Reduction Management
DRRMS	Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Service
DSWD	Department of Social Welfare and Development
ECCD	Early Childhood Care and Development
EPI	Expanded Programme on Immunization
IM	Information Management
IYCF	Infant and Young Child Feeding
LGU	Local Government Unit
MAM	Moderate Acute Malnutrition
MILF	Moro Islamic Liberation Front
MIMAROPA	Mindoro, Marinduque, Romblon and Palawan
NCPWG	National Child Protection Working Group
NDFP	National Democratic Front of the Philippines
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NIE	Nutrition in Emergencies
NNC	National Nutrition Council
OCD	Office of Civil Defense
OCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
PIMAM	Philippine Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition
PLW	Pregnant and Lactating Women
SAM	Severe Acute Malnutrition
WASH	Water, sanitation and hygiene
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization

Executive Summary

The Philippines is at a high risk for disaster due to its vulnerability and exposure to different hazards such as typhoons, earthquakes, volcanic eruption, and drought. In 2018, the country experienced several typhoons of varying intensities, volcanic eruptions, rain-induced landslides and flooding. Prolonged evacuation and displacement is still being experienced due to the impact of the Marawi armed conflict.

UNICEF, in partnership with Government, responded immediately to many of these emergency situations to ensure that the rights of affected children are safeguarded. UNICEF joined coordinated assessments between Government and the Humanitarian Country Team to highlight and prioritize children's needs in the Humanitarian Response Plans.

UNICEF's humanitarian programming focused on strengthening government's capacity for emergency preparedness, thus, ensuring the implementation of immediate response activities. UNICEF also continued to provide leadership and technical support as lead in the Nutrition, WASH, and Education clusters, and the Child Protection sub-cluster.

Although emergency preparedness of the Government has significantly improved, several challenges need to be addressed such as conducting regular and timely reporting and documentation for nutrition hampered by limited capacities and fragmented information systems. These issues are especially highlighted during emergency situations when reports are delayed and of poor quality. For instance, poor information dissemination about vaccination exacerbated the recent dengue vaccine controversy in the country that led to widespread public rejection of vaccination – adding to the problem of low immunization coverage. This complex system threatens the country's immunization program and poses challenges to health governance and leadership at the national and subnational levels. Thus, protocols on immunization during emergency and outbreak response must be developed and agreed upon by stakeholders to better prepare and respond to crises.

Low-intensity engagements against armed groups, primarily in Mindanao, continue to affect children in 2018. While access for monitoring remains challenging, verification and response was completed for 80 per cent of reported cases of grave child rights violations. Dialogues with parties to conflict were sustained, including with National Democratic Front of the Philippines and Armed Forces of the Philippines. At the national level, UNICEF supported legislative advocacy efforts that paved the way for the enactment of Republic Act 11188, the Children in Situations of Armed Conflict Law, which aims to strengthen coordinated mechanisms to prevent grave violations, provide adequate resources to local and national agencies, and hold perpetrators accountable for their violations.

Through the Thematic Funds, combined with other resources, UNICEF was able to optimize its convening role towards the achievement of humanitarian results for children. UNICEF was able to support development of training modules and capacity-building; development of guidelines, frameworks, and policies to support emergency preparedness; and quick mobilization and provision of emergency supplies.

Humanitarian Context

In 2018, Philippines has experienced several emergencies. Towards the end of 2017, Tropical Storm Kai-tak (local name: Urduja) and Typhoon Tembin (local name: Vinta) successively hit the country. As early as January 2018, over 82,000¹ people were evacuated as Mayon Volcano erupted. In September, Typhoon Mangkhut (local name: Ompong) affected almost 4 million² people when it hit Northern Luzon. Six weeks after Typhoon Mangkhut, Typhoon Yutu (local name: Rosita) affected almost 600,000 individuals in several Mangkhut-stricken areas which led the Philippine Humanitarian Country Team to incorporate additional assessed needs from Typhoon Yutu to the initial Typhoon Mangkhut response document developed. On the last days of the year, Tropical Depression Usman brought torrential rains in Regions IV-A (CALABARZON³), IV-B (MIMAROPA⁴), V (Bicol), and VIII (Eastern Visayas) which triggered several landslides and flooding. On top of all these, the displaced communities of the Marawi crisis need continuous humanitarian response.

Tropical Storm Kai-tak and Typhoon Tembin

A low-pressure area was formed late afternoon of 12 December 2017 which later intensified into a tropical storm and made landfall in San Policarpio, Eastern Samar as Tropical Storm Kai-tak four days later. This severe weather disturbance affected six regions (MIMAROPA, V, VI, VII, VIII and CARAGA) with 435,220 families. A total of 47 persons were reported dead and 43 people missing. A total of 35,286 houses were damaged. There were reports of flooding and some areas experienced power outages. A total of 18 Local Government Units (LGUs) were declared under State of Calamity.⁵

Typhoon Tembin made landfall shortly after on 22 December 2017 over Mindanao, specifically over Cateel, Davao Oriental. This affected 184,278 families in eight regions (MIMAROPA, VII, IX, X, XI, XII, ARMM and CARAGA) and resulted into 44 deaths and 14 missing. Fourteen LGUs, mostly in Mindanao declared their areas under State of Calamity.⁶

Mayon Volcano eruption

On 22 January 2018, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology raised a 'Level 4' alert over Mayon Volcano which later interrupted and produced volcanic tremors accompanied by lava fountaining and flowing, and ash plumes as high as 1,300 metres above the summit. As a result, the danger zone was expanded into an 8-kilometer radius where the provincial government ordered mandatory evacuation of all affected communities. According to government figures,⁷ around 23,786 families were affected in 61 barangays, including an estimated 36,000 children; approximately 21,358 families were placed in evacuation centres. The Albay Public Safety and Emergency Office reported that over PhP160 million⁸ (US\$3 million) of agricultural production were lost in the eruption.

Typhoon Mangkhut

On 15 September 2018, Typhoon Mangkhut made landfall in Baggao, Cagayan in Northern Luzon. With sustained winds of 205 km/h and gusts of up to 285 km/h, it was the strongest to enter the country for

¹ Humanitarian Bulletin Issue No. 1, February 2019

² 3,816,989 persons, DSWD DROMIC Report No. 66 on Typhoon Mangkhut, 6 November 2018

³ Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal, and Quezon

⁴ Mindoro, Marinduque, Romblon, and Palawan

⁵ NDRRMC Situation Report No. 28 for Tropical Storm Urduja, 07 February 2018

⁶ NDRRMC Situation Report No. 26 for Typhoon Vinta, 11 February 2018

⁷ DSWD DROMIC Terminal Report on the Mayon Phreatomagmatic Eruption, 3 April 2018

⁸ NDRRMC Situation Report No. 56 on Mayon Volcano Eruption, 7 March 2018

the year as a Category 3 typhoon. The typhoon affected 931,982⁹ families in seven regions: I (Ilocos Region), II (Cagayan Valley), III (Central Luzon), CALABARZON, MIMAROPA, NCR and CAR. Around 129,290¹⁰ families were in evacuation centres with a small number remaining there two months later. A total of 82 deaths were reported and at least two were missing.¹¹

Typhoon Yutu

On 18 November 2018, six weeks after Typhoon Mangkhut made landfall, Typhoon Yutu (similar to Typhoon Mangkhut) caused heavy rains, widespread flooding and multiple landslides in Regions I, II, III, CAR and VIII – roughly the same areas hit by Typhoon Mangkhut. A total of 136,273 families were affected and 66,165 damaged houses were reported.¹²

After the coordinated assessment of government and the Humanitarian Country Team, a Humanitarian Response and Resources Overview for Northern Luzon Typhoons was developed to:

1. To augment national efforts to provide immediate, life-saving assistance to people affected by the typhoon;
2. To restore the safety and dignity of the most vulnerable populations by ensuring they have access to safe housing and basic services, and regained food security;
3. To facilitate the early recovery of the most vulnerable households through the provision of cash assistance, and rehabilitation of livelihoods and damaged infrastructure.

El Niño

Towards the last quarter of the year, quite a number of provinces experienced dry spell and drought. Several of these affected provinces are in Northern Luzon also affected by Typhoons Mangkhut and Yutu. This posed a potential concern on recovery, particularly for farmers who lost their crops to the typhoons. In 20 February 2019, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration officially announced the beginning of a weak El Niño which is expected to continue until May 2019. Implementation of the early action activities as prescribed in the Inter Agency Standard Operating Procedures for Early Action to El Niño/La Niña episodes is underway.

Marawi armed conflict

This reporting period was marked by ongoing armed encounters between the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and various armed groups. While the Marawi siege ended in October 2017, military operations continued in 2018 against remaining members of the Maute group, the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters, the Abu Sayyaf Group and other alleged IS-inspired groups.

In October 2018, the Protection Cluster reported that 161,970 persons had been displaced in 2018 because of armed conflict and violence in Mindanao. As reported by the Mindanao Humanitarian Team in March 2019, 66,107 people remain displaced (85 per cent home-based). Out of the total number of internally displaced persons (IDPs), 892 families are in evacuation centres and 1,743 families are in transitory sites. Monitoring and verification of grave violations continues to be challenged by the volatile security situation and the restrictions put on movement due to Martial Law in Mindanao which has been extended until end of 2019.

⁹ DSWD DROMIC Report No. 66 on Typhoon Mangkhut, 6 November 2018

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ NDRRMC Situation Report No. 57 on Typhoon Mangkhut, 5 October 2018

¹² DSWD DROMIC Report No. 35 on Typhoon Yutu, 18 November 2018

Two years since the conflict, recent assessments show that displaced communities still need food assistance. Other humanitarian needs include potable water, hygiene kits, sanitation facilities. There is still no timeline as to when affected communities will be able to return to their homes; transitional shelters are still very few; and livelihood opportunities are still scarce.

The UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) allocated a US\$5 million grant to the Philippines to address the underfunded humanitarian needs of people displaced by the Marawi conflict. A portion of the fund (US\$413,919.59) was allocated to UNICEF to deliver a package of high impact and life-saving nutrition interventions for 20,000 children and women displaced by the conflict – including those living within host communities – building upon the gains from emergency nutrition services coverage and expanding reach to include more children and women.

Peace and security situation

Conflict-related incidents between the New People's Army (NPA) and the AFP supported by pro-government paramilitary armed groups intensified after the presidential proclamation of the Communist Party of the Philippines and NPA as terrorist organizations in December 2017 and the termination of formal peace talks in June 2018.

The year 2018 saw an increased use of military approaches and responses. Former military officers were appointed to positions in public administration such as the heads of the Departments of Social Welfare and Development, and of the Interior and Local Government. Indigenous peoples, human rights and land rights activists, trade unionists, teachers and journalists, and various groups and organizations speaking against the administration were linked and 'tagged' to the communist party or communist insurgency. The administration called upon the AFP to establish 'death squads' to deal with communist rebels and urged for the revival of the Reserve Officers' Training Corps program for senior high school students to increase patriotism among youth. In November 2018, the President issued Memorandum Order 32 reinforcing the guidelines for AFP and the Philippine National Police in the implementation of measures to suppress and prevent lawless violence and acts of terror, in the provinces of Samar, Negros Oriental, Negros Occidental, and Bicol Region – areas known to have active communist insurgency.

In July 2018, President Duterte signed the Bangsamoro Organic Law and was ratified by a plebiscite on 25 January 2019. This will represent the culmination of the peace process with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF). The transition to a new Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) opens windows of opportunities for peace and development in the region. United Nations agencies were on high alert and made contingency arrangements, including monitoring mechanism, for possible tensions.

Impact to children

Children are disproportionately affected by these emergency situations. For example, there is a need to regularly monitor the nutritional status of children – especially infants and young children – and pregnant and lactating women because they are mainly at risk of malnutrition during emergency.

Disasters and emergencies compromise child protection systems, weaken protective family and community structures and exacerbate pre-existing vulnerabilities. During disasters, the provision of basic services – including access to health care, education and social services – becomes weak and inadequate; making children vulnerable to recruitment by armed groups, trafficking, chronic psychological distress, and different forms of abuses. Grave child rights violations in the context of armed conflict continue to

deprive children's realization of basic rights. The social welfare and justice systems often fail to provide appropriate responses to their needs in terms of psychosocial support, access to justice and reintegration.

Furthermore, as experienced this past year, several schools were damaged and were deemed to be in unsafe areas, so there is a need for temporary learning spaces and identification of flexible learning options. School supplies and learning materials were also destroyed and needed replacement. The displacement and loss of livelihoods of many families meant several children were at risk of dropping out of schools.

Humanitarian Results

In 2018, UNICEF Philippines did not take part in an inter-agency appeal or Humanitarian Action for Children (HAC) appeal but still supported preparedness and response interventions in nutrition, health, WASH, child protection, education, social policy, and disaster risk reduction. The following demonstrate the results achieved and progress on UNICEF's commitments to humanitarian action through various contributions from both thematic and non-thematic humanitarian funds.

Nutrition

The nutritional status of girls, boys and women is protected from the effects of humanitarian crisis

Throughout 2018, UNICEF continued to provide technical assistance and support to government counterparts on nutrition in emergencies to ensure the immediate response to any critical nutrition gaps identified in the assessment including those who have pre-existing conditions.

Humanitarian Response

Mayon Volcano eruption

Thirteen United Nations agencies, international non-government organizations, private sector and local non-governmental organizations (NGOs) joined the assessment and formed the 14 assessment teams. Although UNICEF did not directly respond to the Mayon eruption, the thematic funding allowed the Nutrition Section to provide technical support to the National Nutrition Cluster to assess, plan, and monitor priority government response activities in affected areas.



A group of breastfeeding mothers in an evacuation centre in Daraga share their experiences and needs with UNICEF during the Mayon joint rapid assessment. ©UNICEF Philippines/2018/JMaitem



One-year-old Divine undergoes tests for SAM in a barangay health station in Flora, Apayao. ©UNICEF Philippines/2018/JVerzosa

Typhoons

In partnership with Save the Children through the activation of an emergency Project Cooperation Agreement (PCA), UNICEF supported training and orientation sessions for over 120 frontline workers and local health unit staff on the rapid identification of acute malnutrition and on proper infant and young child feeding (IYCF). A total of 801 pregnant and lactating women were screened for acute malnutrition; with 307 of them counselled on optimal IYCF practices. LGUs were also supported in screening more than 5,000 children under 5 years old; with 67 of them identified as having severe acute malnutrition (SAM). These children with SAM have been referred to appropriate management and care so they can receive life-saving treatment using ready-to-use therapeutic food.

Marawi armed conflict

Since 2017, UNICEF has been supporting the government in providing nutrition interventions for displaced communities affected by the Marawi siege. In 2018, UNICEF secured CERF-UFE grant to complement ORE funding. UNICEF and its partners provided nutritional screening to 18,545 children under-five and 2,827 pregnant and lactating women (PLW); referred 177 children with SAM for treatment: discharged 109 SAM children as cured, 21 are ongoing treatment, 19 defaulted, 19 are non-responders, 6 transferred out, and 3 have died; referred 508 children with moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) to the World Food Program (WFP) for supplementary feeding; provided 46,299 children with micronutrient supplementation, and 3,136 PLW with complete course of iron-folic acid supplementation. UNICEF also supported capacity-building through IYCF counselling to 4,768 PLW and caregivers; trained 192 health workers in management of acute malnutrition; sensitized 78 community nutrition support volunteers; and, provided nutritional supplies and equipment benefiting approximately 26,000 children. The intervention assisted a total of 29,546 people, facilitated the prioritization and inclusion of nutrition programs in the local

governments of Marawi City and Lanao del Sur, Philippines. The program contributed to the maintenance of malnutrition indicators within the Sphere standards between April to December 2018.

Nutrition Cluster coordination and preparedness

UNICEF is well-positioned to provide technical assistance in nutrition in emergencies and cluster coordination as the co-lead to the Government's National Nutrition Council (NNC) and its four technical working groups (TWGs), namely, Philippine Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition (PIMAM), Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF), Assessment and Monitoring, and Advocacy and Communications – all of which have remained operational and have been chaired by program officers of NNC and Department of Health (DOH) since 2014. NNC has been leading the National Nutrition Cluster in planning for, responding, and monitoring the nutrition situation in typhoon- and conflict-affected areas. A strategic core group, composed of the chairs of the four TWGs plus NNC and UNICEF formed in 2013, is operational and reviews the Nutrition in Emergencies Strategic Plan and key recommendations from the four TWGs to support cluster level decision-making for both preparedness and response activities.

In the first quarter of 2018, UNICEF supported the cluster in reviewing the draft of the Earthquake Contingency Plan and updating its directories as part of its regular preparedness measures. Because of the previously identified challenges in reporting, and in delivering nutrition services especially during emergencies, UNICEF's strategic support to NNC and DOH in 2018 focused on three major activities: 1) the development of the Philippine Food and Nutrition Surveillance System's Framework and Strategic plan which has an emergency component; 2) the review and updating of the Nutrition in Emergencies (NIE) training modules with support from the WFP; and 3) review and updating of the Nutrition Information Management (IM) training modules.

The development of the Philippine Food and Nutrition Surveillance System's Framework and Strategic Plan only commenced in the second half of 2018. This was due to the challenges in identifying a suitable local institution which can provide quality technical assistance to government and partners. As of December 2018, inception planning, secondary review of data, and field data collection have been completed for this work which hopes to identify a core set of indicators for reporting for both development and emergency and define a monitoring and evaluation framework that will guide all national government agencies in tracking progress. For the first time in 2018, through UNICEF's support, NNC was able to convene its National Surveillance Technical Working Group which had been dormant for decades and developed the first draft of the strategic plan last February 2019.

UNICEF also provided technical support to NNC, DOH and the Nutrition Cluster to update both the NIE and IM training modules. Part of the support included the assessment of existing capacities of service providers and coordinators at different levels of government. With the identification of capacity gaps, the technical teams then proceeded to update and pre-test the existing training modules on NIE and IM with the support of UNICEF, DOH and NNC, WFP, and other cluster partners. A pool of trainers will then be created at the national and regional levels which will be engaged in rolling out succeeding trainings at the subnational level in 2019–2020.

In late 2017, DOH requested UNICEF to procure key supply items such as rehydration solution for malnutrition and mid-upper arm circumference tapes to fill government procurement gaps. The procurement of these supplies was started in early 2018 together with the procurement of F75 and F100 therapeutic milk, vitamin A capsules, and portable height boards as prepositioned stock for preparedness.

UNICEF has been providing assistance to Eastern Visayas Regional Medical Center since March 2017 in the operations of the Human Milk Bank – an offshoot of the 2014 Haiyan Response. With a capacity to pasteurize 9 litres and safely store 370 litres of human breastmilk, the milk bank has been providing pasteurized milk to babies admitted in the pediatric intensive care unit and the pediatric ward of the hospital, and to nearby hospitals during emergencies such as Typhoon Vinta in December 2017. It was formally launched on 28 February 2019.



Representatives from DOH, Eastern Visayas Regional Medical Center and UNICEF at the inauguration of the hospital's Human Milk Bank, the first of its kind in the Visayas region. ©UNICEF Philippines/2019/JReyna

Management of Severe Acute Malnutrition scale-up

DOH has officially endorsed and adopted the guidelines for the management of SAM in December 2015. Through UNICEF's support and advocacy, DOH has invested in a costed multi-year Scale-up Implementation Plan that started in 17 priority provinces (Phase 1) and will see nationwide implementation by 2022. Key components of the plan include development and dissemination of finalized policies and guidelines; procurement of essential supplies; development of training modules; capacity-building of trainers and implementers for the delivery of PIMAM services in identified priority provinces; and conduct of quality improvement methods to assess and monitor post-training implementation.

Now on the third year of the SAM program, UNICEF continues to provide technical assistance to DOH in strengthening SAM capacities and services – including procurement and planning. Identified as one of the main needs in 2018 by DOH, UNICEF led the integration of SAM and MAM training modules with technical inputs from WFP. With the integration of the two training modules (now Philippine Integrated

Management of Acute Malnutrition or PIMAM), DOH in turn became more effective and efficient in strengthening capacities using a holistic approach to prevent, identify and appropriately manage cases of acute malnutrition. In 2018, a total of 114 government employees from 15 targeted provinces received training support on PIMAM from Kalusugan ng Mag-ina, a local NGO, in 2018 to upgrade their skills and knowledge through mentoring support and quality assurance during the planning and training.

Programme and operational bottlenecks in 2016 and 2017, which included procurement and clearance delays, have resulted into delays in the delivery of essential SAM and in the implementation of the programme. To address this, UNICEF and partner University of the Philippines Los Baños Foundation (UPLBF) conducted the first ever bottleneck analysis for a SAM inception workshop. The workshop brought together technical experts and implementers to identify key indicators and create tools for collecting data. UPLBF is currently collecting data and is expected to present the findings by April 2019 in a validation and action planning workshop. Through this exercise, a critical analysis of both qualitative and quantitative data is performed to identify and articulate bottlenecks or barriers to access to SAM treatment and to effective coverage. The bottleneck analysis approach is the first step in identifying effective means to improve access and coverage of SAM management services. It is also very important in informing the SAM scale-up strategy and to maximize opportunities to achieve more responsive programming and better results for children of the Philippines.

Recognizing that SAM indicators have yet to be integrated into the routine health information system, UNICEF continues to work with DOH in collating and analyzing SAM admissions and discharges. On January 2019, UNICEF successfully advocated for the inclusion of SAM admissions as one of the key indicators in the Field Health Service Information System, a routine information system of DOH.

Lastly, the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) requested UNICEF for support in the conceptualization of a benefit package for SAM back in 2016. This commenced in May 2017 and included the designing of an insurance package, costing, collecting information/data for actuarial analysis, designing the contracting and payment mechanism, and elaborating an M&E framework. The costing survey, which will help define the costs of the package, was only completed in early 2019 due to contractual issues. The final package is expected to be launched by end of 2019.

High-level advocacy for infant and young child nutrition

With support from other funding sources, UNICEF continues its high-level advocacy work with strong NGO partners such as the Philippine Legislators' Committee on Population and Development and the Philippine Coalition of Advocates for Nutrition. Since 2014, UNICEF's legislative advocacy on the first 1,000 days of life has led to the development of two nutrition-related bills: 1) First 1,000 days, and 2) extended maternity leave bill. Last 29 November 2018, national and local level advocacy led by UNICEF led to the passage Republic Act 11148 "An Act Scaling up the National and Local Health and Nutrition Programs through a Strengthened Integrated Strategy for Maternal, Neonatal, Child Health and Nutrition in the First One Thousand (1,000) Days of Life". Similarly, the Extended Maternity Leave bill was ratified by Congress through a bicameral process in October and signed by the President in February 2019.

Challenges and way forward

With the available thematic funding and supported by other funding sources, UNICEF was able to support DOH in developing the Philippine IYCF Strategic Plan 2018-2030. Similarly, an IYCF Communication plan was developed by NNC supported by UNICEF and Alive and Thrive. The repackaging of IYCF modules is on the final stage of review, and complementary feeding landscape analysis and development of guidelines for maternal nutrition have started. These initiatives are key preparedness measures that will strengthen

the promotive and preventive nutrition interventions and reduce the risk developing or worsening of malnutrition cases in emergencies and disasters.

Challenges in regular and timely reporting and documentation for nutrition still exist because of limited capacities and fragmented information systems. Achievements in IYCF counselling and life-saving care to children with SAM through the PIMAM program remain underreported. However, with the update of the Nutrition IM and NIE training modules, UNICEF hopes that these will improve reporting and documentation capacities at all levels of government. UNICEF will support the finalization of the Philippine Food and Nutrition Surveillance System Framework and Strategic Plan, envisioned to provide strong basis for decision-making by the government and its partners to ensure appropriate actions are being done by accountable organizations especially in emergencies. Lastly, UNICEF was able to work with champions within the DOH Epidemiology Bureau in 2018 which resulted to the inclusion of SAM admissions as part of the health system's routine reporting to which UNICEF will continue providing technical support to strengthen the strategic use of data and information.

Nutrition results as of 31 December 2018¹³

UNICEF Humanitarian Results Indicators	UNICEF	
	UNICEF Target	Total ¹⁴ Results
# Mothers/caregivers of children 0-23 months with access to IYCF counseling for appropriate feeding	10,000	5,069 ¹⁵
# Children (6-59 months) screened for acute malnutrition,	25,000	23,635
% of those identified with Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) referred for treatment	90%	100%
# Children (6-59 months) in the affected areas provided with 3-month supply of micronutrient powder	25,000	46,299 ¹⁶
# People reached with key messages on health and nutrition through all channels	100,000	29,853

¹³ Based on Humanitarian Performance Monitoring for Typhoon Mangkhut and Marawi Conflict

¹⁴ Results are for humanitarian responses for Typhoon Mangkhut and Marawi Siege

¹⁵ A number of activities coincided with the end of year holiday activities which resulted to lower participation or rescheduling of activities to early Q1 of 2019. Data collection remains a challenge even for Government.

¹⁶ No funds were received to support UNICEF procurement. UNICEF and partners supported distribution and monitoring of government-procured supplies.

Health

Excess mortality among girls, boys and women in humanitarian crisis is prevented

UNICEF continued to support the government at the national level and in priority regions to build resilient health systems. In 2018, funding from ORE was used mostly to support activities that would contribute to improvement in immunization outcomes in the context of a declining immunization coverage with focus in Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM). More importantly, UNICEF supported strengthening of the immunization supply chain, capacity-building of health workers and improving service delivery mechanisms.

Support to strengthen health systems (national level)

Vaccine, cold chain and logistics management training

UNICEF supported the development of a training package which includes facilitators manual and syllabus, and the conduct of training of trainers on vaccine, cold chain and logistics management on 14–17 August 2018.

Thirty-four participants from 16 regions were trained; ARMM representatives were trained later. The training aimed to develop and enhance the knowledge and skills of immunization service providers, NIP managers, and cold chain managers to effectively manage vaccines and immunization logistics. The training provides guidance on key activities at every level of the cold chain system: calculating requirements, requisitioning, receiving, storing, distributing and monitoring vaccine use and wastage as well as implementing contingency plans in case of a disaster or emergency.



Vaccine Cold Chain and Logistics Management Training of Trainers in Manila

UNICEF also supported regional trainings in Regions X, XI and ARMM with 90 per cent of the participants having been with the program for less than five years and have not received any form of training/orientation on vaccine and cold chain management. At the end of the training, participants were required to develop an entry plan to improve cold chain and vaccine management practices in their regions.



Web-based Vaccination Supply Stock Management
Training in Region X and Region XI

Development of policies and guidelines

In the Philippines, the Research Institute for Tropical Medicine (RITM) houses the national vaccine store or the primary level store where vaccines are received directly from the vaccine manufacturer or from an international supplier and stored in cold rooms. It is being managed by the Storage and Distribution Division. It distributes vaccines through a third-party agreement to 46 sites: 17 regional stores and 29 provincial/city stores. The Institute has been functioning as a national vaccine store for several years without an official mandate from DOH. UNICEF provided technical support to the development of an administrative order to officially designate the Research Institute for Tropical Medicine as the

National Vaccine Store and define its roles and responsibilities. The order is awaiting the signature of the DOH Undersecretary for Public Health Services Team.

UNICEF also provided support in the development of Vaccine and Logistics Management Standard Operation Procedures (SOPs). Appropriate SOPs for the national, regional, provincial and health centre levels have been developed and are being used for training purposes of new employees. A corresponding department circular by the Secretary of Health will be issued to ensure compliance by stakeholders at all levels.

Roll out of training of the web-based vaccination supplies stock management

The Web-based Vaccine Supply stock management is an open-source web application for managing vaccine stock and related supplies that ensures an updated/real-time inventory and efficient distribution system. In 2017, UNICEF supported the training of 17 DOH regional offices; and in 2018, UNICEF supported the provincial/city roll-out of the training in 12 out of 17 DOH regional offices. UNICEF also funded the roll-out of DOH-National Capital Region (NCR), DOH-4A and DOH-ARMM which are priority areas in terms of disadvantaged communities: geographically isolated, urban poor and conflict areas.



Web-based Vaccination Supply Stock Management Training in ARMM and CARAGA

PQS cold chain equipment assessment

UNICEF supported the Performance, Quality and Safety-Cold Chain Equipment (PQS-CCE) field performance assessment conducted by PATH in July 2018. The WHO PQS process prequalifies products and devices so that member states and UN purchasing agencies are assured of their suitability for use in immunization programs.

The PQS assessment was done in selected sites in the country, mostly where UNICEF provided cold chain equipment after Typhoon Haiyan in 2013. The objectives of the assessment were to (1) detect root causes of failures and likely failures with a validated and shared standard protocol to help manufacturers in responding to design or production issues; (2) for Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) programs to justify proposals to address systemic or human resource gaps contributing to premature equipment failures; (3) for partners to guide national programs on equipment options and predict replacement part requirements; and (4) for WHO PQS Secretariat to maintain a dynamic global dataset on field failure modes of prequalified equipment and coordinate responses to technical gaps.



PQS Assessment in Tabon-Tabon, Leyte



Cold room temperature mapping

UNICEF supported the temperature mapping of vaccine cold rooms in the national vaccine store and the regional cold rooms in Regions II, VIII, XI and XII from January to December 2018. Temperature mapping was a recommendation of the Effective Vaccine Management Assessment in 2017 to ensure optimum storage temperature is maintained for vaccines. The collected data provide an essential source of information to ensure that all vaccines are correctly stored within their labelled temperature range.¹⁷



Training of RITM Staff on Temperature Mapping

UNICEF also supported an actual cold room temperature mapping training in August 2018 for staff of the national vaccine store. The objective of the activity is to enable the participants to conduct temperature mapping activity when needed and if requested by other regions

Support to strengthen health systems (sub-national level)

Assessment of cold chain status in Maguindanao and Lanao Del Sur

In the past years, ARMM has seen a decline in immunization coverage and increasing cases of vaccine preventable diseases. One of the factors identified is cold chain capacity and vaccine supply. In response to the request of DOH-ARMM, UNICEF supported the cold chain assessment in selected health facilities of Lanao del Sur Province in March 2018 and in Maguindanao province in June 2018.

A thorough assessment was conducted together with mentoring and coaching at the facilities. Recommendation were given to DOH-ARMM, the Provincial Health Office and the Rural Health Units, most critical is the conduct of cold capacity building, adding more vaccine cold fridges and hiring of a cold chain manager-technician to sustain the functionality of the cold chain system in the ARMM region.

¹⁷ Technical supplement to WHO Technical Report Series, No. 961, 2011



Cold chain assessment, installation and coldchain orientation in RHU Buluan, Maguindanao Province

Capacity-building support for ARMM

UNICEF supported the training of trainers on EPI Basic Skills Training in August 2018. There were 21 participants representing all the provinces and cities of ARMM. Supported by UNICEF, the EPI training was rolled out to all municipalities and cities targeting nurses and midwives working at the municipal and barangay levels. The 450 participants shared that the training helped them have a better understanding of EPI in routine and emergency/outbreak contexts.

Support to the Measles Rubella immunization campaign

UNICEF provided technical support in the planning and orientation for the 2018 Measles Rubella immunization campaign both at the national level with emphasis on ARMM. UNICEF supported DOH-ARMM in developing implementation strategies given the challenges of short planning and social preparation amid the upcoming barangay elections and the Ramadan season. Intra-campaign monitoring and rapid coverage assessment also helped improve coverage.



A girl receives her Measles-Containing Vaccine in Bajao Village, Bongao, Tawi-Tawi

UNICEF also provided additional measles vaccines for 50,000 children in Lanao del Sur, Marawi City and Tawi-tawi. During the campaign, UNICEF contributed to the high coverage of 83 per cent compared to the national coverage of less than 50 per cent.

Development of Fatwa for immunization

UNICEF facilitated several gatherings of the Regional Darul Iftah, the organization of the Muslim Religious Leaders from August to October 2018. The gatherings lead to the formulation of the Fatwa on Immunization that will be communicated to communities through local government units and through the more than 3,000 mosques in the region. This Fatwa will contribute the understanding of the life-saving capacity of immunization and the urgency of accessing vaccination services in the context of emergencies.



Muslim Religious Leaders gather for a workshop on fatwa formulation on routine immunization in Cotabato City

Humanitarian Response

Typhoon Mangkhut

UNICEF Health team supported the rapid assessment of the damage by Typhoon Mangkhut in Region II. Given the pre-existing vulnerabilities of the affected communities, children were exposed to increased risks of communicable diseases including measles. Low immunization coverage and a history of measles cases in the first half of the year increased the likelihood of disease outbreaks.

UNICEF supported the measles immunization campaign for children 6–59 months nationwide through planning and vaccine procurement. The measles immunization campaign in CAR and Region II coincided with the humanitarian response for Typhoon Mangkhut where approximately 32,000 children were reached through a community-based immunization strategy.

Post-Marawi conflict

Responding to the health emergency during the Marawi conflict in 2017, UNICEF supported the provision of additional vaccines, mobilization of health workers, and the measles-rubella immunization campaign in Marawi City in 2018. The volatile government structures as a result of the conflict hampered health workers to reach all eligible children, reaching only 38% of the estimated 20,000 eligible population.

Challenges and way forward

Key governance challenges in decision-making include issues on vaccine procurement process and policy; introducing new vaccines; formulating strategic health human resource development; and planning and allocating support to immunization service delivery at the community level.

The recent dengue vaccine controversy that severely affected vaccine coverage in the country has been an added burden to the existing low immunization coverage. How these challenges are being addressed by key DOH officials is a blow to DOH's credibility to lead and align its goals of attaining universal health coverage and being accountable to the public.

Health results as of 31 December 2018¹⁸

UNICEF Humanitarian Results Indicators	UNICEF	
	UNICEF Target	Total Results
Health and Nutrition		
# Children (6-59 months) vaccinated for <u>measles</u> & received vitamin A.	25,000	32,000 ¹⁹

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

Girls, boys, and women have protected and reliable access to sufficient, safe water, sanitation, and hygiene facilities

Throughout 2018, UNICEF supported several small-scale emergencies in the Philippines to ensure that the rights and needs of children to safe water, and quality sanitation and hygiene facilities were met.

Humanitarian Response

Tropical Storm Urduja

According to an assessment report of a UNICEF partner in Region VIII (Eastern Samar), damages were much more serious than anticipated. The municipalities struggled to meet the most urgent needs of the affected population including access to safe drinking water, access to toilets, and proper hygiene. Most water sources were either damaged or contaminated by floodwaters, and the displaced families lost most of their belongings.

Through ACTED working in the municipalities of Mercedes and Salcedo, UNICEF received a request for assistance for clean water, which involves water kit distributions and water supply system repairs and hygiene promotion. The hygiene promotion included handwashing techniques, proper water storage techniques and proper sanitation practices, which sought to minimize public health risks.

¹⁸ Based on Humanitarian Performance Monitoring for Typhoon Mangkhut

¹⁹ Total for the Health Cluster

Eastern Samar was part of the Haiyan response and early recovery efforts for WASH governance which included fecal sludge management and WASH in communities.

Four water systems were repaired, providing water supply for 12 barangays (communities) with a population of around 6,500 people in Mercedes and Salcedo. Additionally, 2,055 children benefitted from the rehabilitation of gender-segregated toilets, handwashing facilities and water pumps at a school in Mercedes and seven schools in Salcedo.

Typhoon Vinta

On 3 January 2018, A Single Drop for Safe Water (ASDSW), UNICEF received a request from the Provincial Health Office of Palawan for assistance for WASH supplies such as water kits, hygiene kits, and water quality monitoring. While Palawan is not in Mindanao (where Vinta hit), the typhoon crossed over to the southern tip of Palawan causing considerable damages to the municipality of Balabac – a smaller island of Palawan Island that can be reached in 30 minutes to an hour by boat.

On 7 January 2018, ASDSW sent an assessment team to different barangays in Balabac municipality bringing small quantities of water and hygiene kits to provide an initial targeted response. During that time, a diarrhea outbreak was reported that was precipitated by Typhoon Vinta. The assessment showed damages to water sources and was exacerbated further by cultural norms of households like practicing open defecation and having very low toilet coverage (less than 15 per cent)

Assessment results of some barangays also showed unabated diarrhoea cases, contaminated water sources, unhealthy sanitation practices and the limited capacity of the LGU to respond, especially to WASH needs.

The difficulties of communication, transportation and the LGU's limitations to respond to the typhoon worsened the situation. Based on LGU reports, no more than 50 cases of diarrhea were recorded in the municipality annually. However, the assessment report already showed 63 cases of diarrhea from the barangays assessed.



UNICEF's local partner, A Single Drop for Safe Water, is delivering water and hygiene kits to Balabac, Palawan in the aftermath of Typhoon Vinta

Typhoon Vinta affected many different areas, where it overlapped with the affected population of the Marawi armed conflict. Approximately 3,750 people received 750 water and family hygiene and dignity kits. While in Palawan, at least 300 families received water and family hygiene and dignity kits.

Additionally, in the recovery efforts for Typhoon Vinta, UNICEF was able to support the formation of a WASH council/cluster at the provincial level of Palawan where a resolution was passed to update the contingency plan using the WASH cluster approach. At the same time, 83 staff members from six municipalities, including Balabac, received training on Managing WASH in Emergencies. With this, the province and municipalities will have a potentially better WASH preparedness plan and be able to deal with WASH issues in the future in a systematic way.

Mayon Volcano eruption

Based on the assessment, there was enough drinking water in evacuation centres. However, water for domestic use was limited in households and some water points showed presence of E. coli contamination. Toilet ratio ranged from 60–100 (and above) per person per toilet in the evacuation centres or in the schools. At the same time, the capacity of the septic tanks was small and needed desludging every so often. While there were service providers for desludging, there were no proper treatment sites. The government was able to build 700 toilets through the Department of Public Works and Highways, the provincial and municipal governments and some WASH cluster partners.

Assessment also showed that evacuations centres did not have adequate bathing and laundry areas, and many of the WASH facilities had no gender segregation and there was limited collection and proper disposal of solid waste in the evacuation centres.

The Mayon Eruption response was solely led by Government and UNICEF did not receive any request for assistance for WASH. Some WASH cluster partners responded and supported the Government response.

Typhoon Mangkhut

Rapid assessments carried out by WASH Cluster partners, including UNICEF, showed Typhoon Mangkhut caused widespread flooding which contaminated water sources, particularly Level I and II sources. Although most of these were handpumps, they generally remained operational. In some areas like CAR, the landslides caused damages to the piped water distribution systems.

Functionality of several Level III water systems in the typhoon-affected areas was compromised by the current power outages and at that time, it was not known when the supply of electricity would return to normal. Most local water districts did not have generator sets. Fortunately, alternative sources of drinking water were available in the affected areas through water refilling stations and local suppliers of bottled water. However, purchasing clean drinking water was difficult for the affected population due to the typhoon's impact on their livelihood.

Concerns were raised over the spread of water-borne diseases because of the limited supply of water in some areas and the uncertainty over the quality of available water. Municipal health offices have expressed the need for household water treatment products as they had very limited supply to distribute. These products, e.g., Sodium Hypochlorite (locally called "Hyposol") and water purification tablets are not readily available in the local market.

Based on the Department of Health (2017) Field Health Service Information System, the existing sanitation coverage in Cagayan province includes 92 per cent of households with access to sanitary toilets, which is higher than regional and national average. Households in Kalinga (55 per cent) and Apayao (74 per cent) provinces have significantly lower access to sanitary toilets compared to the national average of 86 per cent. These numbers may have decreased following reports on the number of households with severe damage to their homes that would likely increase the number of damaged or destroyed toilets.

UNICEF launched an appeal for assistance for US\$4.4 million, with \$855,000 earmarked to respond to WASH needs of 37,500 women, men and children through distribution of clean water. This covered water kits and repairs of water systems, provision of sanitation facilities for households, and distribution of hygiene kits and promotion of key hygiene messages. A Single Drop for Safe Water complemented UNICEF's funding with other funding resources.

A total of 17,478 people benefitted from the distribution of 3,500 water kits and repair of water sources. In ensuring water quality, 61 staff members from six municipalities were trained on water quality monitoring and testing using Portable Microbiology Lab. Where monitoring of water sources showed positive for E. coli, appropriate actions were done to reinstate communities' access to safe drinking water. To support the disinfection, UNICEF provided chlorine granules to the Municipal Health Offices.

About 7,448 people received 1,650 family hygiene and dignity kits; while hygiene promotion activities in schools and communities reached 4,708 people. Community health workers, trained by UNICEF and its partners, conducted hygiene sessions on safe drinking water and safe sanitation and proper hygiene practices.

Furthermore, the community health workers advocated and promoted zero open defecation communities. To further support the LGUs and affected communities to improve their sanitation status, training of masons was being done on toilet construction in line with the distribution of toilet repair kits to vulnerable households.

So far, 1,705 students have benefitted from the distribution of school hygiene kits. This allowed students to practice proper care of their oral hygiene and practice proper handwashing. Assessments were conducted in 13 schools to repair WASH facilities.

In the Humanitarian Response and Resources Overview for Northern Luzon Typhoons coordinated by OCHA, WASH requested the total amount of \$1.2 million for 6,000 families in Regions II and CAR. However, as of December 2018, no funding was received through this fundraising initiative.

Marawi armed conflict and Mindanao response

UNICEF continued to respond to the Marawi armed conflict, where 20,214 people benefitted from a combination of repairs and constructions of water supply systems. To further support the LGUs and affected communities to improve their sanitation status, 1,700 people, particularly vulnerable households, received 340 toilet repair kits while 25,628 people benefitted from 119 units of communal toilets. Around 94,578 people received hygiene promotion sessions on safe drinking water, use of sanitation and proper hygiene practices; 15,715 people received family hygiene and dignity kits.

The Marawi response included children in schools with around 35,610 students receiving school hygiene kits; 10,832 benefitting from new or improved handwashing facilities in their school; and 6,891 having better access to gender-segregated toilets.

While 138,500 people were being displacement by the conflict since mid-2017, the onslaught of Typhoon Vinta on the region made conditions worse in evacuation centres. According to OCHA,²⁰ 715,000 were affected by Typhoon Vinta, with some 1,620 houses destroyed and at least 1,000 houses damaged.

Responding to smaller emergencies in Mindanao in 2018, UNICEF provided 2,250 water kits to 11,500 people in Sulu Province, including water purification tablets for a targeted response to diarrhea cases and a fire incident.

Cluster coordination, governance and partnerships

UNICEF supported DOH in the cluster coordination and information management. The support to DOH included collating information from assessments and ongoing response of partners and then sharing these with OCHA and DOH for all emergencies in 2018.

At the WASH governance level, one Municipal WASH Task Force was organized within the local government unit to raise and address WASH issues.

UNICEF's small-scale responses to severe weather disturbances and population displacements caused by conflict were quickly achieved through existing partnerships with ACTED, Action Against Hunger, and local NGO A Single Drop for Safe Water. The existing partnership agreements involves undertaking rapid assessments and responses to a limited number of families, allowing time for a more expanded emergency response partnership to be formulated if needed.

²⁰ OCHA Philippines: Tropical Storm Tembin (Vinta) Snapshot (as of 28 Dec 2017)

Preparedness

The bigger UNICEF preparedness plan can reach at least 12,500 families within the first week of a response with some supplies on long-term agreements (LTAs) while some are prepositioned (especially for those off-shore procured items) in Manila and Mindanao warehouses.

The humanitarian thematic funding allowed quick distribution and restocking of WASH emergency supplies. To be able to restock immediately, UNICEF has existing LTAs with different suppliers for locally available WASH supplies such as water kits, family hygiene and dignity kits, school hygiene kits, portable toilets, and chlorine granules. The local version of the family hygiene and dignity kits includes menstrual hygiene management items such as sanitary pads, *malong* (a traditional "tube skirt" that can be used for changing clothes especially if there are no partitions in evacuation centres), and under garments for women and girls. It also includes a whistle to signal for help in case of emergency, including sexual harassment or assault.

WASH results as of 31 December 2018²¹

UNICEF Humanitarian Results Indicators	Mangkhut Response		Other Emergencies ²²	Mangkhut Response		Other Emergencies
	UNICEF Target ²³	Total Reached	Total Reached	WASH Cluster Target ²⁴	Total Reached	Total Reached
# People accessing sufficient quantity of water of appropriate quality for drinking, cooking and personal hygiene	20,000	16,863	67,569	30,000	30,285	169,083
# People accessing appropriate sanitation facilities	16,000	0	27,328	30,000	1,565	27,328
# People provided with information on safe sanitation and hygiene practices	37,500	13,861	129,382	30,000	59,445	147,360

²¹ Based on Humanitarian Performance Monitoring for Typhoons Urduja, Vinta, and Mangkhut

²² Other small-scale emergencies were not provided with targets.

²³ Only Typhoon Mangkhut warranted a UNICEF appeal, amounting to \$4.4M, of which \$855,000 was for WASH.

²⁴ The WASH Cluster developed an overall estimation of needs and targets in the Humanitarian Response and Resources Overview for Northern Philippines 2018.

Girls' and boys' rights to protection from violence, abuse and exploitation are sustained and promoted

The overall objective of UNICEF's child protection emergency response is to strengthen the protective environment for children. Given the prevailing situation of children in the various emergency situations, this was pursued by increasing the capacity of local frontline service providers to prevent and respond to gender-based violence, exploitation and abuse of children and women; establishing community-based child protection systems; and developing a prevention and rehabilitation programme for children formerly associated with armed groups.

Monitoring and reporting of grave child rights violations

While access for monitoring remains challenging, the verification and response was completed for 80 per cent of reported cases of grave child rights violations. UN dialogues with parties to conflict were sustained, including with NDFP and AFP, to discuss strategies to prevent and respond to grave child rights violations in the context of armed conflict. At the national level, UNICEF supported legislative advocacy efforts that paved the way for the enactment of Republic Act 11188, the Children in Situations of Armed Conflict (CSAC) Law, which aims to strengthen coordinated mechanisms to prevent grave violations, provide adequate resources to local and national agencies, and hold perpetrators accountable for their violations.

More than a year after the end of the Marawi siege (May–October 2017), the availability of public information about the violations and victims of the conflict continue to challenge the assessment of its impact. Despite such challenges, the United Nations, led by UNICEF, verified that the Maute group used at least 20 children and abducted 17 children, 15 of them also used and 6 raped. In addition, 35 hospitals and 20 schools were destroyed because of military operations and 6 teachers were attacked. Seven children were detained by security forces for their alleged association with the Maute. The United Nations also verified the maiming of 6 children and received unverified information on the killing of 11 children. Information related to the identity and age of the reportedly over 1,000 individuals killed during the Marawi siege is lacking or remains difficult to verify. Many of them may be children. In this regard, civil society actors have called for independent investigations into potential human rights and international humanitarian law violations. These verified cases were referred by the country taskforce to appropriate agencies for the needed response.

With support from UNICEF as co-chair of the country taskforce, the Department of Education continues its consultations to develop and finalize the National Policy Framework on Schools and Learners as Zones of Peace. This shall serve as the department's internal guidelines and protocols in responding to armed conflicts. This proposed policy attempts to be more aligned with the peacebuilding lens by adopting standards on conflict sensitivity.



#ChildrenNotSoldiers, Child waiting to be disengaged from the Interim Base Command of the BIAF, Sultan Kudarat, Maguindanao © UNICEF Philippines/2017/Maitem

Peacebuilding and disengagement of children from armed groups

Following implementation of the UN-MILF Action Plan in 2017, 1,869 children (620 girls and 1,249 boys) were disengaged and a programme of support for them implemented. In 2017–2018, UNICEF peacebuilding programme in Mindanao encompassed different components related to education, health, water and sanitation, child protection and governance, with a clear focus on adolescent youths. Resources from this funding were combined with other resources to complement similar programmatic efforts. This included contribution to the follow-up and referral to services for the disengaged and at-risk children and their families, to the promotion of peace and positive social norms by religious leaders and youths in communities, as well as to the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism on grave violations against children in situations of armed conflict. Results for 2018 indicated that 98 per cent of the disengaged children and their families are being followed-up by trained para-social workers and were not found to have re-associated with armed groups. Resources were also used to develop ten religious sermons (Khutbah) on topics including child protection, prevention of violence and peaceful-'jihad' were developed in cooperation with the Dawa Committee of the MILF and are being disseminated in communities.



Parents and children arriving for the disengagement ceremony at 101 base command of the BIAF, Pagayawan, Lanao del Sur. © UNICEF Philippines/2017/Maitem

Child Protection sub-cluster coordination

Meanwhile, UNICEF as chair of National Child Protection Working Group (NCPWG), led the nationwide training of emergency responders on child protection from June-October 2018, reaching 266 frontline service providers across all 17 regions. This is in line with Republic Act 10821, Children's Emergency Relief and Protection Act of 2016. The training also initiated the mentoring relationship between NCPWG and the 17 RCPWGs, by assigning mentor NCPWG agencies for each of the 17 regional that will help monitor the implementation of the action plans developed during the training and ensure their compliance to the child protection standards enshrined in Republic Act 10821. The mentoring relationship provides a sustained support for all sub-national structures and is in line with the GPH-UNICEF priorities for the 8th Country Programme for Children. Reaping the lessons from the prior coordination fostered from the previous nationwide capacity building initiatives of the National Child Protection Working Group, UNICEF was able to mobilize during Typhoon Mangkhut in September 2018 local child protection partners to conduct Child Protection-focused needs assessments, and initiate psychosocial support activities, including setting up of Child Friendly Spaces, in the emergency affected areas, demonstrating the competencies they have developed from the capacity building initiatives. In a great sense, Typhoon Mangkhut helped test the relevance and level of implementation of the law and because of the timeliness and accuracy of the response, validated the efforts on institution-building and enhancing the NCPWG vis-à-vis its regional counterparts.



A trained CFS facilitator supervising the outdoor activities for children affected by Typhoon Mangkhut in Cagayan Province.
©UNICEF Philippines/2018/JVerzosa

Humanitarian Response

Typhoon Mangkhut

UNICEF, in partnership with civil society organizations (CSOs), has reached 2,173 children and adolescents (1,134 girls, 1,039 boys) with psychosocial support activities in 13 Child-Friendly Spaces (CFS) sites across five municipalities in Cagayan and Apayao provinces. These activities are being managed by 80 trained CFS facilitators (73 women, 7 men), who initiated the psychosocial support sessions over the holidays. Distribution of emergency supplies, including CFS kits, were used as a venue to promote child rights and child protection messages, as well as disaster risk reduction strategies. Meanwhile, 33 community members (32 women) in these barangays were also trained on psychosocial support for adults and reached 606 community members (537 women, 69 men) with these care sessions. Alongside these CFS activities, five barangays participated in learning sessions on children's rights and child protection, to assist the strengthening of their community child protection mechanisms and facilitate the formation of their Barangay Council for the Protection of Children. Aiming for sustainability of these Child Protection initiatives, two stakeholder consultations were conducted to help the barangays map the resources to support the strengthening of their local child protection systems.

Marawi armed conflict

Key community-based child protection mechanisms were strengthened in 50 conflict-affected barangays where 138 (124 females, 14 males) community volunteers were trained on child protection, and gender-based violence reporting and referral pathway.

Community-based psycho social support (PSS) were provided to 3,882 children, parents and community members (1,796 are males and 2,086 are females) affected by Marawi conflict. The PSS programme was conducted through 2018 and have been handed over to local community structures and schools since November 2018. Twenty-five (15 boys, 10 girls) unaccompanied and separated children have been reunified with their families in close coordination with the Marawi City Social Welfare Officer.

With support from UNICEF, the Regional Juvenile Justice and Welfare Committee in ARMM have trained 91 service providers (81 women, 10 men) including lawyers on 'Integrated Care Management Protocol for Handling Children in Conflict with Law and Children At-Risk' from the provinces of Basilan and Sulu.

Challenges

Monitoring and reporting of grave child rights violations

Displaced communities are increasingly frustrated by the slow reconstruction and recovery of Marawi and the limited government responses to their needs. The United Nations is highly concerned by this situation which may also be fueling armed groups to recruit new members, including young people and potentially, children. Without sufficient attention and investment in social and economic development, access to justice and peacebuilding in Lanao del Sur and other regions of Mindanao, similar crises could emerge, and lasting peace will be difficult to achieve.

The United Nations noted an increased use of indiscriminate IED attacks against civilians by armed groups in western and southern Mindanao. Noting the increased number of children victims of explosive remnant of war, the United Nations encourages the conduct of mine-risk education programme for children in specific armed conflict-affected areas.

The United Nations remains concerned about the lack of respect for due process for children arrested or detained by security forces for their alleged association with armed groups. In a number of cases, in clear disregard for protocols, children were not handed-over to the social welfare system and nor treated as victims.

The United Nations is also worried about the continuous threats of attacks on indigenous people schools, their personnel, students and parents by the AFP and pro-government paramilitary groups. In addition, AFP soldiers continue to organize activities and to provide direct services to children in schools and communities in the context of civil-military operations, putting the children at unnecessary risks.

Child Protection sub-cluster coordination

Having completed in 2018 the nationwide rollout of Child Protection Minimum Standards (CPMS) and Republic Act 10821, it is critical that technical support to the 17 regional CPWGs would continue, to ensure that they are able to practice the competencies they have gained from the training. Absence of a continuing technical support or helpline will render the capacity building efforts unoptimized. The National CPWG has agreed to continue with the mentoring relationship between the national and sub-national CPWGs, to facilitate compliance to Republic Act 10821.

Peacebuilding and disengagement of children from armed groups

Despite progress, such as the disengagement of 1,869 children from the ranks of the MILF, children continue to be at risk of recruitment and use by armed groups including violent extremist groups, and exposed to other types of violations, violence, abuse and exploitation. The recent Marawi crisis, for instance, showed how children remain particularly vulnerable when armed conflict breaks out; a

significant number of children were engaged in hostilities, used to provide support to armed groups, abducted, killed, injured and raped. Thousands were traumatized, displaced and remain in need of shelter, health, education and other basic services. There is also the suggested threat of use of the digital space by some extremist sectors recruiting and preying on children or youths online. Without protecting children and civilians from armed conflict and fulfilling their rights, peace and development will be hampered in the Philippines.

Child Protection Results as of 31 December 2018²⁵

UNICEF Humanitarian Results Indicators	UNICEF	
	UNICEF Target	Total Results
# Children reached with psychosocial support activities	2,500	2,173 ²⁶
# Children/ adolescents provided with Child protection messages through direct means	4,500	2,779 ²⁷

Education

Girls and boys access safe and secure education and critical information for their own well-being

Education in Emergencies aims to ensure the physical, psychosocial and cognitive protection of learners through provision of safe learning spaces and support to affected populations. Responding to education needs is essential because it provides a sense of normalcy and structure, especially to children and adolescents.

Humanitarian Response

During the first quarter of the year, UNICEF responded to the Mayon Volcano Eruption by providing 60 temporary learning spaces sent to affected schools in Region V.

Towards the end of the year, UNICEF worked with the Department of Education's (DepEd) Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Service (DRRMS) in identifying priority schools for Typhoon Mangkhut emergency response based on the degree of infrastructure damage and the urgent needs of teachers and learners. Psychological first aid to reduce the initial distress and foster short and long term adaptive functioning and coping was an identified need, thus, DepEd teaching and DRRMS personnel were capacitated to provide this to their respective schools, easing learners and educators alike towards a sense of normalcy.

UNICEF also partnered with Save the Children in supporting over a thousand of children in CAR and Region II affected by Typhoon Mangkhut. Schools where regular classes have resumed have been provided with

²⁵ Based on Humanitarian Performance Monitoring for Typhoon Mangkhut

²⁶ Results as of 23 January 2019 (1,134 girls, 1,039 boys)

²⁷ Results as of 23 January 2019 (1,134 girls, 1,039 boys, 69 men, and 537 women)

2,100 learner kits, 15 teacher kits and 15 temporary learning spaces benefitting 890 girls and 900 boys (total of 1,790 learners). Similarly, DSWD in these two regions have received a total of 34 UNICEF early childhood care and development (ECCD) kits and sets of local storybooks. These were distributed to affected child development centres in selected barangays. The ECCD kits benefitted around 1,020 preschool children.

UNICEF also provided response to Typhoon Yutu, covering two schools in Kalinga. The Education Cluster facilitated assistance to affected areas in Regions I and II amounting to US\$16,000. Education cluster partners were convened to map out response interventions for the affected divisions. A Rapid Damage Assessment Needs Analysis in CAR was conducted and subsequently, the Rapid Assessment and Damages Report were consolidated to determine the extent of damages and the possible response interventions.

Education Cluster Coordination

UNICEF co-led the Education in Emergency Cluster together with DepEd and Save the Children. Aside from regularly conducting cluster meetings to ensure education resilience, some key accomplishments of the Cluster include the following:

- Risk-informed plans, policies and standards. UNICEF supported the drafting of the policy framework on learners and schools as zones of peace. DepEd and UNICEF, among other agencies and CSOs, also participated in the International Search and Rescue Advisory Group Asia-Pacific Regional Earthquake Response Exercise
- Information, education and communication advocacy for resilience. DepEd and UNICEF provided inputs to the “Taking Play Seriously” Media Training Workshop, highlighting the importance of upholding the children’s right to play, and therapeutic play as a means to help improve children’s wellness and resilience.
- Documentation of school and community best practices on DRRM in situations of armed conflict; and
- DepEd’s release of the report on ‘Ensuring Protection of Schools and Learners and Continuity of Education in Conflict-Affected Areas: The Philippine Experience’ which presents priority areas for policy enhancement and strategic action by the DepEd to ensure protection of schools and learners as well as continuity of education in times of armed conflict.

Challenges

One of the major issues related to education in emergency response implementation is the unsafe locations of some schools as it was deemed to be built on unstable grounds that is considered to be high-risk. While this reality redirected efforts to other strategies such as having schools in safe locations accommodate learners from the endangered schools, a larger plan towards relocating schools or even whole barangays to safer ground needs to be discussed.

The non-inclusion of early childhood education in the agenda of the Education Cluster is also a concern. While in the distant past, when ECCD sub-cluster (which then focused on early childhood education, e.g. resumption of child development classes during emergencies) was part of the Education Cluster, the early childhood education concern is not discussed in any of the existing emergency clusters. The main human resource for this service, the child development workers, have also historically been maximized during relief operations, and this practice contributes to pushing back the resumption of classes in the child development centres.

Funding is also an issue because the actual funds received for Education in Emergency response is only a fraction of the original appeal. In the case of the Typhoon Mangkhut, Education in Emergency was only 6 per cent funded. To fill the gaps, UNICEF coordinated with local government units and regional and division offices of the affected regions.

Education results as of 31 December 2018²⁸

UNICEF Humanitarian Results Indicators	Cluster/sector 2018 Target	Cluster/sector Total Results	UNICEF 2018 Target	UNICEF Total Results
Number of school-age children provided with teaching/ learning materials and recreation kits	15,000	4,844	29,000	2,100
Number of pre-school children provided with ECCD and recreation kits	5,000	1,020	1,000	1,020
Number of temporary learning spaces established	150	28	200	15
Number of school-age children attending sessions in temporary learning spaces	15,000	1,790	20,000	1,790
Number of pre-school children attending sessions in temporary learning spaces	5,000	0	800	286
UNICEF, as cluster lead agency, is responsible for information management of cluster partner results and sharing overall results achieved by cluster members collectively.				

Social Policy

Strengthening the functionality of the Cash Working Group

UNICEF was appointed convenor of the United Nations Cash Working Group (CWG). The CWG is a platform for coordination of cash-based interventions/activities in the Philippines. It is also a forum for strategic and technical discussions and collaboration on cash transfer programmes in humanitarian response and preparedness among the humanitarian community, financial service providers and the government.

In mid-2018, UNICEF took on the chairmanship of the CWG. There were four meetings in 2018, three of which were chaired by UNICEF, and included a special cash coordination meeting for Typhoon Mangkhut. The CWG, through its secretariat OCHA, facilitated the drafting of the National Guidelines on Cash Transfer Programming and is leading the advocacy for its adoption and implementation by the Philippines Government. It has continued to serve as a platform for coordination, information sharing and joint capacity-building initiatives on cash transfer programmes and humanitarian response.

²⁸ Based on Humanitarian Performance Monitoring for Typhoon Mangkhut

In December 2018, UNICEF also chaired an assessment and workplanning exercise to identify priorities for the year 2019.

Promoting inclusive and integrated planning and budgeting in emergency-prone areas

UNICEF and the Galing Pook Foundation continued to promote the use of adaptive development programming with 10 local government units, including two municipalities in the Bicol region which are often affected by typhoons, and eight municipalities in the Mindanao Region which are also vulnerable to conflict and disaster. The programme emphasized that local chief executive and department heads need to react and respond to changes in the programming environment brought about by political and socioeconomic factors which are often heightened during emergencies. As follow-up to the classroom-type workshops held in 2017, the year 2018 was devoted to providing on-site coaching and mentoring sessions to encouraged local government officials to adjust their actions to find workable solutions to problems that they may face in developing and implementing programmes for children, especially during emergencies.

In partnership with the Institute for Autonomy and Governance, UNICEF reach out to indigenous communities in the conflict-affected municipalities of Ampatuan, Datu Odin Sinsuat, Datu Blah Sinsuat, Upi and South Upi of the Province of Maguindanao. The partnership convened indigenous children and youth and facilitated a process to identify their priority agenda and supported capacity-building on child rights for the Indigenous Peoples Mandatory Representative (IPMR) of the conflict-prone LGUs. One of the recurring themes identified by the indigenous children is their safety because they are being recruited by or suspected of being sympathizers of non-state armed groups like the Bangsamoro Islamic freedom Fighters, Moro National Liberation front, NPA and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front. They also raised their fear of being caught in the cross-fire between state and non-state armed groups especially when they are on the way to school. The indigenous children and youth were able to bring these issues to the attention of tribal leaders, IPMRs and local government officials and to make recommendations to address these issues.

UNICEF also supported the Commission on Human Rights to conduct the Mindanao Regional Inquiry on the Situation of the Rights of the Child to gather information on the status of implementation of children's rights throughout the country. Participants included representatives from government agencies, civil society organizations, and sectoral representatives from the hazard prone and conflict-affected areas of Cagayan de Oro City and the provinces of Bukidnon, Lanao del Norte, and Misamis Occidental. Children affected by the Marawi crisis who lived in the IDP camps also participated.

The inquiry focused on three thematic issues: indigenous children and right to education; internally displaced children and the right to basic health and welfare; and recruitment of children by armed groups.

Disaster Risk Reduction

UNICEF has continued supporting the Philippine Government in strengthening its capacities through skills development in emergency response and disaster risk reduction. As mandated, UNICEF ensured that children's rights and specific needs are addressed in all phases of DRRM.

As part of UNICEF's commitment, capacity-building support for the Office of Civil Defense (OCD) has been provided to enhance their skills as they perform their lead agency role in DRRM. With support from OCHA, UNICEF has provided trainings to OCD and select provinces to enhance their response preparedness

through coordination, information and data management, assessment, and community engagement. The workshops are focused on data processing and visualization to develop better data templates and have an improved data flow. OCD staff were able to apply the lessons from the workshop during their preparation of the humanitarian snapshots during Typhoons Mangkhut and Yutu.

After the Mayon Volcano eruption, UNICEF and OCHA provided training to 40 local DRRM offices and information technology staff of Albay Province. The capacity-building focused on rapid damage assessment and needs analysis, improving local data management, and community engagement in preparedness.

The child-centred DRR program of UNICEF focused on increasing the capacity of five LGUs in developing local integrated, multisectoral and child-centred DRRM Plans. LGU sectoral focal points were trained in relevant competencies to enable them to perform their roles during preparedness and response activities. Technical assistance in the development of preparedness of sectoral preparedness and response plans were also provided. As a result, the developed plans were then integrated into the Municipal DRRM Plan and the LGU Comprehensive Development Plan. Children and youth representatives were also formally included as members of the Municipal DRRM Councils. These local experiences informed the development of a toolkit²⁹ on mainstreaming child's rights in local development planning. A documentation of good practices in CC-DRR has also been finalized.

During this year's ASEAN Summit, Member States approved the ASEAN Declaration on the Adoption of the ASEAN Youth in Climate Action and Disaster Resilience Day and designated 25 November to commemorate it annually. As a follow-through, UNICEF supported the National Youth Council and CCC in the National Conference of Youth on Climate Action and Disaster Resilience which provided space for youth delegates to learn and discuss climate and disaster resilience issues that affect them. As a result, the delegates developed the Philippine Youth Statement that was submitted to the Philippine Delegation to the COP 24.

UNICEF also supported the National Children and Youth Consultation to gather input for the for the 8th Asian Ministerial Conference for DRR in Mongolia. This consultation resulted in a statement calling government and other stakeholders in ensuring participation and recognizing children's contribution in the DRR agenda. The statement was included in the official delegation statement of the Philippines and was cited in the Statement of Action of Children and Youth Stakeholders.

A post-AMCDRR activity on youth participation in DRR and climate action entitled Yes4SaferAsia was also organized by UNICEF together with partners World Vision, Makati City DRRM Office, and United Nations Major Group for Children and Youth. This activity aimed to showcase good practices on children and youth participation in DRRM that will inform future policy. As a result of the activity, OCD committed to include children and youth in the review process of the National DRRM Plan. To build on these activities, youth participation in DRR/CCA is one of the components under the local governance output in the new Country Programme.

UNICEF also supported the strengthening of stakeholder support for the amendment of the Philippine DRRM Law and to ensure that child-responsive provisions are included. UNICEF provided technical review

²⁹ Weaving Children's Rights and Concerns in Local Government Planning: A Toolkit for Mainstreaming Children's Education, Health, Nutrition, WASH, and Protection in Disaster Risk Reduction

and input on the finalization of the Memorandum Circular on the Localization of the Comprehensive Emergency Program for Children issued by the Department of Interior and Local Government

In support to enhance the country's response capacity and a cluster lead, UNICEF also participated in International Search and Rescue Advisory Group (2018 simulation exercise last 26–29 June 2018 which aimed to test the contingency plans and strengthen Philippine Government's capacity to respond in case of a major earthquake scenario in Metro Manila. The exercise examined the international humanitarian assistance coordination system during the initial response phase.

Challenges and way forward

One of the key lessons from implementation, particularly at the local level, is the significance of integration and mainstreaming of key issues on DRR and climate change in sectoral and development plans. Doing this ensured that the specific concerns of children are heard and represented in the local planning structures and processes; their concerns are addressed in the plans; and there are policies and resources for their protection and participation.

Thus, as part of the next Country Programme's outputs on local governance and social protection, DRR and climate change adaptation will be integrated to ensure that plans, policies, and budgets will be responsive to both disaster and climate risks.

Results Achieved from Humanitarian Thematic Funding

Results Attribution

For the nutrition sector, approximately 50 per cent of the achievements is attributable to the utilization of the humanitarian thematic funds.

For the health sector, the humanitarian thematic funds contributed to reaching almost 300,000 children under five in ARMM for immunization services, and the support to national level work contributed to reaching almost 1 million children under one year old for routine vaccination services and more than 2 million children under five for the measles rubella immunization campaign nationwide.

For WASH sector, 64 per cent of the funds used for the Typhoon Mangkhut Response is from the Humanitarian Thematic Fund. Responses for Typhoon Vinta and Urduja is 100 per cent attributable to the Fund, as well as 98 per cent of the Marawi armed conflict response.

For child protection sector, humanitarian thematic funds comprised 40 per cent of the resources allocated for humanitarian response. This support has reached 3,810 children, parents and community members through Marawi child protection response and 2,173 children and adolescents (1,134 girls, 1,039 boys) in the Typhoon Mangkhut child protection response.

Significance and criticality of the Humanitarian Thematic Funds

The Humanitarian Thematic Funds supported nutrition sector, which was critically underfunded. Additional funds from CERF-UFE were secured for Marawi in 2018 but the initial thematic funds were instrumental in allowing UNICEF to immediately provide the needed support and be flexible.

It was also used to fund critical interventions for a more resilient health system with focus on the national immunization program work both at the national level and targeted support to ARMM. The immunization program has been in crisis for years now with a declining coverage and the resultant outbreaks of vaccine preventable diseases. An emergency or disaster will only exacerbate what is already a dire situation, thus, it is imperative that UNICEF Philippines supports strategies to improve the programme and contribute to decrease incidence of vaccine preventable diseases both in a humanitarian and non-humanitarian setting.

However, in 2018, there was very limited funding for immunization in UNICEF Philippines programmes and was mainly allocated for urban immunization work in Metro Manila. The available funding from the thematic grant provided the opportunity to scale up innovations in supply chain/cold chain, capacity-building for health workers/managers, and hiring of consultants that provided expertise in the areas of supply chain, cold chain and communication for development.

The monitoring and reporting mechanism on grave violations has been critically underfunded, relying mainly on humanitarian and emergency funds. Thematic funds were combined with other resources to complement similar programmatic efforts optimizing the catalytic and convening role of UNICEF and partners in the achievement of child protection humanitarian response and peacebuilding results. This included contribution to the follow-up and referral to services for the disengaged and at-risk children and their families; to the promotion of peace and positive social norms by religious leaders and youths in communities; as well as to the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism on grave violations against children in situations of armed conflict.

Added value of Humanitarian Thematic Funding

It allowed UNICEF flexibility and quick provision of technical support to the government counterparts to assess, plan for, implement, and monitor response activities for the affected areas. Following the Marawi Siege in 2017, the health service delivery of the city was severely affected: health facilities were destroyed, health workers were victims themselves, and primary health care was not fully functioning which can result to possible disease outbreaks. With support from the thematic funding, procurement of 50,000 doses measles vaccines was achieved. In 2018 with support from other health partners, an immunization campaign was conducted in Marawi and other provinces of ARMM.

The thematic contributions gave UNICEF more room for a timely response to different emergencies in the Philippines, including the activation of regional mechanisms. With the ongoing conflict in Mindanao, the perennial typhoons and the constant threat of earthquakes and other geologic hazards facing the country, the generous thematic fund allowed for better quality response time to meet urgent needs, more appropriate interventions, and less transaction costs.

Aside from facilitating the achievement of child protection humanitarian response and peacebuilding results, thematic funds permitted UNICEF to respond equitably to children affected by crisis and further enabled UNICEF to be a more predictable and dependable partner to other United Nations agencies and other stakeholders, such as in the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism (MRM) on grave violations against children in situations of armed conflict. While access to monitoring remains challenging, the verification and response was completed for 80 per cent of reported cases of grave child rights violations in 2018. United Nations dialogues with parties to conflict were sustained, including with NDFP and AFP, to discuss strategies to prevent and respond to grave child rights violations in the context of armed conflict. At the national level, UNICEF supported legislative advocacy efforts that paved the way for the enactment of Republic Act 11188, the Children in Situations of Armed Conflict (CSAC) Law, which aims to strengthen coordinated mechanisms to prevent grave violations, provide adequate resources to local and national agencies, and hold perpetrators accountable for their violations. Continuity of these activities is very critical as the MRM is a continuing mandate of UNICEF from the Security Council.

Thematic funding also contributed to more upstream disaster risk reduction work. Specific example is the development of the report 'Ensuring Protection of Schools and Learners and Continuity of Education in Conflict-Affected Areas: The Philippine Experience' supported by UNICEF using thematic funds. It concludes with recommendations towards translating enhanced or new policies in specific school-level guidelines which are to be disseminated in schools especially in remote and conflict-affected areas.

Key partnerships and interagency collaboration

With the available thematic funding and supported by other funding sources, UNICEF was able to support DOH in developing Philippine IYCF Strategic Plan 2018-2030 through national workshops and remote consultations aligning priorities against above frameworks and inputs from stakeholders and members of the IYCF Technical Working Group.

The thematic funding gave UNICEF the advantage of leading some critical areas where traditionally, UNICEF has had a comparative advantage such as in supply chain, routine immunization services and communication for development. The resources available was also used to strengthen collaboration with other health partners like WHO, Médecins Sans Frontières, and International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies towards a more strategic support to government. This was evident in the joint

planning and monitoring for the measles immunization campaign in ARMM and in areas devastated by typhoon Mangkhut.

Thematic funds were used in the inter-agency workplan of the National Child Protection Working Group co-chaired by UNICEF, which led the nationwide training of emergency responders on child protection reaching 266 frontline service providers across all 17 regions in 2018. These resources likewise supported the inter-agency priorities of the United Nations Country Task Force on Monitoring and Reporting (CTFMR), co-chaired by UNICEF, which completed the verification and response for 80 per cent of reported cases of grave child rights violations in 2018. Thematic funds also facilitated the support of UNICEF to the Philippine government's Inter-Agency Committee on Children in Situations of Armed Conflict which led the advocacy for the enactment of Republic Act 11188, the Children in Situations of Armed Conflict Law.

With the thematic funding, UNICEF Philippines hired a communication for development (C4D) consultant to support ARMM in improving their communication strategies for immunization. Maguindanao and Sulu provinces and Marawi City released regular radio and television announcements about the measles immunization campaign and schedules of vaccination visits. Maguindanao's Provincial Health Officer regularly guested in the local radio programs to talk about measles prevention and the immunization campaign. Maguindanao also conducted a health caravan to promote "*Ligtas Tigdas!*" and counter the misinformation surrounding the dengue vaccine issue. The region, through the Public Information Officer and the Health Education and Promotion Officer, released regular radio and television blurbs of the regional health secretary's announcement about the measles immunization campaign.

Assessment, Monitoring and Evaluation

In 2018, UNICEF Philippines participated in a global-led evaluation on the 'Coverage and Quality of UNICEF Humanitarian Response in Complex Humanitarian Environment' for its emergency response to the Marawi conflict in 2017. Useful findings in terms of emergency programming, monitoring and reporting came out from the evaluation which can be utilized for learning not only in the Country Office but also as a global reference. One of the notable learnings for UNICEF Philippines include further strengthening of available feedback mechanisms during emergencies so that helpful information and complaints from beneficiaries can be used to improve delivery of services. On the other hand, one of the key takeaways for global emergency response practices is adopting the UNICEF Philippines' flexible process to amend existing Programme Documents (PDs) to facilitate emergency response even in the absence of the specific emergency clause in PDs.

Throughout 2018, UNICEF continued to be part of cluster-coordinated assessments for local emergencies such as the Mayon Volcano eruption and Typhoon Mangkhut. UNICEF's participation in these exercises ensured that international emergency response and assistance is coordinated. Also, where UNICEF eventually engaged in small-scale responses, humanitarian performance monitoring was conducted to enable high-frequency humanitarian results reporting to monitor UNICEF's emergency outreach as learning kits, temporary learning spaces, psychosocial services, infant and young child feeding, and access to water and sanitation were provided to affected populations.

Financial Analysis

Table 1: Funding Status Against the Appeal by Sector

Appeal Sector ³⁰	Funds Required (USD)	Funds Received (USD)*	Funding gap	
			USD	%
Education	1,586,900	99,093	1,487,807	94%
Child Protection	357,000	87,827	269,173	75%
Health & Nutrition	1,686,700	22,256	1,664,444	99%
WASH	855,000	323,506	531,494	62%
Total	4,485,600	532,682	3,952,918	88%

Table 2: Funding Received and Available by Donor and Funding Type

Donor Name/Type of funding	Programme Budget Allotment Reference	Overall Amount
I. Humanitarian funds received in 2018		
a) Thematic Humanitarian Funds		
See details in Table 3	SM 189910	\$129,488.42
b) Non-Thematic Humanitarian Funds		
United States Fund for UNICEF	SM 180458	\$233,067.59
United States Fund for UNICEF	SM 180516	\$219,907.41
Norway	SM 180525	\$59,170.47
Total Non-Thematic Humanitarian Funds		\$512,145.47
c) Pooled Funding		
- CERF Grants		
- Other Pooled funds - including Common Humanitarian Fund (CHF), Humanitarian Response Funds, Emergency Response Funds, UN Trust Fund for Human Security, Country-based Pooled Funds etc.		
CERF	SM 180086	\$424,080.37
Total humanitarian funds received in 2018		\$1,065,714.26
II. Carry-over of humanitarian funds available in 2018		
e) Carry over Thematic Humanitarian Funds		
Thematic Humanitarian Funds	SM 149910	\$8,542,415.36
f) Carry-over of non-Thematic Humanitarian Funds		
United States Fund for UNICEF	SM160387	\$418,610.26
Total carry-over non-Thematic Humanitarian Funds		\$418,610.26
Total carry-over humanitarian funds		\$8,961,025.62
III. Other sources		
Regular resources diverted to emergency	GC-NON-Grant	\$6,999.74
Total other resources		\$6,999.74

³⁰ Only Typhoon Mangkhut warranted a UNICEF appeal, amounting to \$4.4M. UNICEF has mobilized internal funds amounting to USD 175,036 to initially respond to the Typhoon Mangkhut. The amount also includes USD 50,000 from UNICEF East Asia and Pacific Regional Office.

Table 3: Thematic Humanitarian Contributions Received in 2018

Thematic Humanitarian Contributions Received in 2018 (in USD): Donor	Grant Number ³¹	Programmable Amount (in USD)	Total Contribution Amount (in USD)
German Committee for UNICEF	SM1899100276	100,000	100,000
United States Fund for UNICEF	SM1499101571	33,838	33,838
German Committee for UNICEF	SM1499101191	227,605	227,605
Swedish Committee for UNICEF	SM1499101527	258,176	258,176
United Kingdom Committee for UNICEF	SM1499101526	100,000	100,000
United States Fund for UNICEF	SM1499101342	32,184	32,184
Total		751,803	751,803

Future Work Plan

Nutrition

As Nutrition Cluster co-lead, UNICEF is committed to continue providing quality technical support to the Nutrition Cluster led by NNC and its four working groups. The focus of the support will be on the finalization of the Philippine Food and Nutrition Surveillance System Framework Strategic Plan and the strengthening of nutrition in emergencies and information management capacities. This will also help strengthen the preparedness capacities of NNC and DOH to quickly respond to future emergencies and disasters in the country by having these systems, and capacities.

UNICEF will also continue to work closely with DOH to support the scale up of SAM management services in the country. The key priorities include:

- 1) Finalization and dissemination of the results of the Bottleneck Analysis which will help strengthen effective coverage and implementation at all levels
- 2) Formulation of the Philippine Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition Strategic Plan as part of the overall Child Survival and Development Strategy of DOH
- 3) Finalization of the SAM PhilHealth Benefit Package for children under 5 years
- 4) Support of effective and timely procurement of essential SAM management commodities
- 5) Formal inclusion of SAM indicators and support to strengthen monitoring and reporting systems
- 6) Support of capacity-building of remaining provinces on SAM management services

UNICEF is working closely with the new BARMM government to continue supporting affected children and their families in Marawi City and the affected neighbouring municipalities. The 2018 Program Implementation Review found that around 50,000 children under 5 years old and 25,000 pregnant and lactating women in nine municipalities (including Marawi City) still need to be supported to prevent the deterioration of their nutritional status. Also identified in the Review was the need to include governance strengthening activities to ensure that programs and plans will be sustained even beyond the recovery and rehabilitation phase. UNICEF will continue to advocate for government support and actively fundraise to generate the needed resources and fill the continuing gaps and needs for the children of Marawi.

³¹ International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) requires all grants to be listed in reporting. <http://iatistandard.org/>

Health

For 2019, priority activities include:

1. Support to the measles outbreak response in terms of technical assistance to the planning of the immunization campaign, facilitate procurement of vaccines and Vitamin A, social mobilization and advocacy, intra-campaign monitoring and post campaign review and documentation
2. Development of a measles outbreak response immunization/immunization in emergencies guidelines and Supplemental Immunization Planning and Implementation Guide; Priority regions in terms of coverage and measles cases will be given targeted support in coming up with a measles elimination plan.
3. Fundraising for health and immunization, in particular, to support priority regions like ARMM as its transitions to BARMM. Focus of support will be in implementation of their measles elimination plan and overall strengthening of routine immunization, procurement of additional cold rooms, solar vaccine refs and remote temperature devices and C4D initiatives to improve demand.

Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)

UNICEF and its partners continue to support national, regional and local efforts to coordinate early recovery efforts for WASH and to ensure that affected communities will be more resilient to future emergencies. These include strengthening selected local government units' capacities for WASH governance and for WASH behavior change programming and service delivery. Currently, UNICEF is supporting the development of a policy/guidelines focusing on WASH in Emergencies at the national level.

UNICEF continues to maintain its readiness to respond to emergencies through prepositioned contingency stocks, long-term agreements for critical supplies and services, and emergency clauses in WASH partnership arrangements.

Child Protection

Guided by recent evidence, UNICEF will work with partners to strengthen their capacity to implement the Comprehensive Emergency Programme for Children (CEPC) in line with the Children's Emergency Relief and Protection Act. The CEPC outlines the strategies needed to implement the Republic Act 10821 or Children's Emergency Relief and Protection Act. UNICEF will collaborate with key national executive agencies, including law enforcement and the judiciary, to increase their capacity to prevent and respond to violence against children and adolescents, including in humanitarian situations. UNICEF will provide technical assistance to regional and provincial government structures to strengthen community-based mechanisms for violence prevention and multisectoral responses. There is also an ongoing effort to link with the family court systems and to sensitize these courts - which have the primary jurisdiction of handling children's issues - in the application of the new pieces of legislation on armed conflict and emergencies to ensure protection of children and their access to justice.

Considering the significant disparities in the conflict-affected parts of Mindanao, UNICEF will work with the Regional Government and line departments of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao as well as United Nations agencies and CSOs to strengthen subnational capacities to protect children at risk of or affected by violence or humanitarian situations. This includes enhancing multi-sectoral capacities to reduce children's risks and vulnerabilities by strengthening access to health care, nutrition, water, sanitation, education and learning opportunities within the comprehensive normalization programme.

For this to be realized, UNICEF will prioritize the following major lines of action together with government and key partners:

Monitoring and Reporting of Grave Child Rights Violations

- Sustaining monitoring of grave child rights violations through UNICEF field verifications missions ensuring that at least 75 percent of reported cases are verified and responded to. This includes regular capacity building to the Philippine country task force and technical working groups in Manila and Mindanao.
- Mobilizing and developing capacity of civil society organizations for monitoring and reporting grave child right rights violations in situations of conflict.
- Continuing dialogue with parties to the conflict to end and prevent grave violations against children, through sustained dialogue with non-state armed groups and the Armed Forces of the Philippines. Review the proposed UN-AFP Strategic Plan, to support the dialogue with state and support their compliance to UN Security Council Resolutions and Republic Act 11188 or the CSAC Law. The development of the UN-AFP Strategic Plan would be a necessary next step to facilitate the accountability of the state in preventing and responding to grave violations, and thereby enable their compliance to the CSAC Law and its implementing rules and regulations.
- Support the Philippine Government's Inter-Agency Committee on Children in situations of armed conflict to develop the Implementing Rules and Regulations of the Republic Act 11188 or the CSAC Law, its nationwide dissemination among frontline service providers, and providing technical assistance and capacity building to the Commission on Human Rights and other mandated agencies to support child victims of armed conflict, promote alternative measures to detention, reduce levels of impunity and provide services, and implement the CSAC Law. A new track of intervention with the family court system has also opened as a programmatic entry point for UNICEF. The above strategy engaging various branches of government and institutions at varying levels of governance would address the current bottleneck on the limited capacity of mandated agencies to respond to cases of grave child rights violations.

Child Protection - peacebuilding and disengagement of children from armed groups

- Providing technical assistance and policy development to regional, provincial and local systems to strengthen child protection systems is necessary. This includes the strengthening capacities of government to have multisectoral coordination and response engaging protection, education, health, nutrition, WASH and other services to all communities in conflict-affected provinces in Mindanao, including in times of emergencies as part of peacebuilding/normalization programming.
- Supporting community dialogues for local populations to engage among themselves and with local government on key issues relating to children's rights and gaps, and in doing so strengthen social cohesion.
- Promoting peace and prevention of violent extremism, including work with communities and religious leaders to promote child protection and peace messages in conflict-affected communities

- Continuing the follow-up and support to disengaged/at-risk children and families including the referral to services and close the family intervention plans with the para-social workers and the municipal social welfare offices. Document the lessons learned of the programme to inform the new Bangsamoro child protection sector plan and the provision of social welfare services by local authorities.

Child protection sub-cluster coordination

- Maintaining UNICEF co-lead role in the NCPWG, and the continuing technical assistance and strengthening of all 17 regional structures on child protection during emergencies, including BARMM.
- Supporting the promotion and implementation of minimum standards for child protection in humanitarian action through policy advocacy and capacity building on Republic Act 10821 or Children's Emergency Relief and Protection Act, as well as emergency preparedness and responses in line with the Core Commitments for Children. This 2019, supplemental capacity building for NCPWG mentors on Child Friendly Spaces, Child Protection Rapid Assessment, Information Management tools, facilitation and adult learning will be prioritized. It would also be necessary to have the Global CPIE Coordination Handbook localized for Philippine context, to serve as handbook and aid frontline emergency responders in ensuring child protection during emergencies.

UNICEF will address inequalities in child outcomes where they are most prevalent and severe, including specific vulnerabilities for children and adolescents; strengthen the resilience of their families, communities and the environments in which they live; and ensure that they develop to their full potential and live in environments that are safe, protected and responsive to their needs. UNICEF will focus on the rights of the country's estimated 12 million poor children who experience multiple deprivations. UNICEF will be vigilant and agile in identifying programmatic entry points across relevant sectors working in peacebuilding, including building evidence when the imperative is established such as the possible online recruitment of youths for violent extremism; and scaled up efforts on parenting programmes.

UNICEF will work with the national authorities to maximize the impact of the country programme nationwide, while modeling selected high-impact interventions and at-scale programming in the poorest and conflict-affected parts of Mindanao and in impoverished urban and rural remote locations within at least two, hazard-prone, poorer provinces. Geographic programme convergence will be emphasized to address multiple deprivations and to maximize return on investments.

Education

The DepEd DRRMS priorities reflected in the rolling workplan of the DepEd and UNICEF are:

- Finalization and roll-out of the policy framework on protecting schools as zones of peace
- Completion of the documentation of DRRM best practices in conflict-affected schools and communities and supporting advocacy/ communication strategy
- School-based inclusive Child Centered DRRM for disadvantaged children such as children with disabilities, indigenous children, those in remote and geographically isolated areas
- Integration and testing of WASH in Schools in DepEd DRR, EiE and Safe Schools Guidelines

For early learning, the rolling workplan of the ECCD Council Secretariat and UNICEF prioritizes the harmonization of the 'Back to Learning' Session Guide incorporating psychosocial support interventions

for children 3 to 4 years old. The rolling workplan between UNICEF and DSWD includes prepositioning supplies for Early Childhood Education Emergency Response.

Expression of Thanks

UNICEF Philippines expresses its sincere gratitude to the generous and valuable contributions made by governments, National Committees, NGOs and other UN agencies which have enabled UNICEF to reach children in need of critical assistance and support. UNICEF recognizes the dedication and commitment of all those involved and is grateful for the teamwork and unity that enabled programmes to be implemented despite significant challenges.

The critical importance and necessity of flexible funding provided through thematic funding cannot be overstated. After emergencies, UNICEF interventions are planned and implemented jointly with governments, other UN agencies and NGO partners. Because thematic funding is not earmarked, it is responsive to emerging issues and can be used where it is most needed within the context of the situation on the ground and the capacity of partners and other actors.

We would also like to highlight that through your generosity, there is now a significant and evident improvement in government's emergency preparedness and response capacity. We look forward to continuing this partnership as we work together for every child.