

# EAST ASIA AND PACIFIC REGIONAL OFFICE

## CONSOLIDATED EMERGENCY REPORT 2021



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*Brothers Chandy and Chandler are staying at an evacuation center with their family in Dinagat Islands after their house was destroyed when Typhoon Rai struck on 16 December 2021*

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**March 2022**

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## 1. Expression of Thanks

UNICEF's work is funded entirely through the voluntary support of millions of people around the world and our partners in government, civil society and the private sector. Voluntary contributions enable UNICEF to deliver on its mandate to protect children's rights, to help meet their basic needs, and to expand their opportunities to reach their full potential. We take this opportunity to thank all our partners for their commitment and trust in UNICEF.

In 2021, contributions from UNICEF's donors ensured significant emergency action was undertaken to provide live-saving humanitarian assistance to multiple crises, including the second year of the global COVID-19 pandemic. This timely assistance helped improve the quality of life for children in difficult conditions and helped address and uphold the rights of children and women that underpin UNICEF assistance efforts. UNICEF remained committed to work closely with governments and its implementation partners to strengthen their capacity to prepare and respond to emergencies through quality programming at the speed of relevance, despite continuous COVID-19 related restrictions and lockdowns throughout the region. UNICEF also inspired consultations with and participation of communities so that their voices are incorporated in the mitigation and response interventions.

On behalf of colleagues throughout UNICEF, the East Asia and Pacific Regional Office (EAPRO) would like to express its sincerest gratitude to the donors who have supported UNICEF efforts to improve the situation of vulnerable children and women affected by emergencies and conflict in the East Asia and Pacific (EAP) region.



## 2. Abbreviations and Acronyms

AAP	Accountability to Affected Populations
AAR	After Action Review
AHA	ASEAN Humanitarian Assistance
APMCDRR	Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
BARM	Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asia Nations
CaLP	Cash Learning Partnership
C4D	Communication for Development
CCCs	Core Commitments for Children
CDC	Centre for Disease Control
CERF	Central Emergency Response Fund
COs	Country Offices
COVID-19	Coronavirus Disease 2019
CPD	Country Programme Document
CPiE	Child Protection in Emergencies
CWG	Cash Working Group
CYMG	Children and Youth Major Group
DFID	Department for International Development/UK
DPRK	Democratic People's Republic of Korea
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
EAP	East Asian and the Pacific
EAPRO	East Asia and Pacific Regional Office
ECD	Early Childhood Development
ECHO	Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations
EiE	Education in Emergencies
EPR	Emergency Preparedness and Response
FbF	Forecast-Based Financing
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
GBViE	Gender Based Violence in Emergencies
GPEI	Global Polio Eradication Initiative
HAC	Humanitarian Action for Children
HiE	Health in Emergencies
IASC	Inter-Agency Standing Committee
IMAM	Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition
MHPSS	Mental Health and Psychosocial Support
NDMO	National Disaster Management Organisation
NiE	Nutrition in Emergencies
PDNA	Post Disaster Needs Assessment
PDR	People's Democratic Republic
PIC	Pacific Island Countries
PNG	Papua New Guinea
PSEA	Prevention of Sexual Abuse and Exploitation
PSS	Psychosocial Support Services
RRRM	Regional Rapid Response Mechanism
SITAN	Situation Analysis
SRSP	Shock Responsive Social Protection
TTX	Table Top Simulation Exercise
UN	United Nations

UNESCAP	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNOCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USCDC	United States Center for Disease Control
OFDA	Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance
VDMA	Vietnam Disaster Management Authority
WASH	Water-Sanitation and Hygiene
WiE	WASH in Emergencies

### 3. Executive Summary

The COVID-19 pandemic continued to severely affect children and their families in the East Asia and Pacific (EAP) region. By the end of 2021, 15.2 million positive cases and 312,408 deaths have been confirmed in the region, with Indonesia (4.3 million cases), Philippines (2.8 million cases), Malaysia (2.7 million cases) and Thailand (2.2 million cases) being the most affected.

COVID-19 and its socio-economic consequences also exacerbated people's vulnerability to other natural hazards, such as typhoons, flooding, earthquakes and tsunamis. East Asia and the Pacific remains the most disaster-prone region in the world, accounting for 70 per cent of the total number of people affected by disasters globally. In 2021, 99,827 people were affected by an earthquake in West Sulawesi in Indonesia, while tropical storms and cyclones affected over 7.7 million people, including 2.5 million children in the Pacific Islands, Indonesia, Cambodia, Timor-Leste and Viet Nam. On 16 December 2021, Super Typhoon Rai (locally called Odette) swept through the Philippines, resulting in widespread humanitarian needs and leaving 2.4 million people, including 912,000 children, requiring have required humanitarian assistance.<sup>1</sup>

In addition, protracted humanitarian situations due to unresolved conflict and political instability continue to affect the lives of millions of children and their families, including in DPRK, the Philippines, Indonesia and Papua New Guinea. Myanmar in particular has been experiencing an unprecedented humanitarian and human rights crisis with multiple challenges, including a political crisis, escalating conflict and violence, the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, climate-related disasters, rising poverty and a collapse in public services, having left an estimated 14.4 million people, including 5 million children, in need of humanitarian assistance.

Throughout 2021, EAPRO supported emergency responses to the COVID-19 pandemic and humanitarian emergencies in Myanmar, Timor-Leste, the Philippines, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Cambodia and the Pacific by enhancing the country offices capacity to respond, providing technical and operational support in the development, implementation and monitoring of emergency response strategies. Emergency preparedness and response capacity of UNICEF Country Office's in the region was strengthened through the delivery of remote EPR trainings and simulation exercises, and the Regional Office strengthened its work on displacement and migration.

EAPRO also provided technical leadership and support to country offices in mainstreaming disaster risk reduction and risk-informed approaches into their country programmes, and staff knowledge and capacities in disaster risk reduction programming were enhanced through dedicated interactions and workshops.

In 2021, global thematic funding allowed EAPRO to undertake various preparedness activities and respond to emergency situations in Timor-Leste, Thailand, Philippines, Cambodia, Lao PDR and Myanmar. At the same time, it allowed to strengthen essential cross-sectoral emergency preparedness and response capacities in Disability Inclusion, Early Childhood Development, Shock-Responsive Social Protection, and Technology for Development. It specifically contributed to strengthen Sexual and Gender-based Violence prevention and response both at regional level and in Cambodia, Viet Nam and Papua New Guinea.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.unicef.org/media/114971/file/2022-HAC-Philippines.pdf>

#### 4. Humanitarian Context: East Asia and the Pacific

The humanitarian context in EAP during 2021 continued to be overshadowed by the COVID-19 pandemic, which had a devastating impact on the lives of children in the region and around the world. By the end of 2021, 15.2 million positive cases and 312,408 deaths have been confirmed in the region, with Indonesia (4.3 million cases), Philippines (2.8 million cases), Malaysia (2.7 million cases) and Thailand (2.2 million cases) being the most affected. Even though countries across the region started to vaccinate their populations against COVID-19 in 2021, the pandemic and related control measures including movement restrictions continued to disrupt access to essential health and social services and to drive steep declines in household incomes. The pandemic contributed to rising numbers of children with severe acute malnutrition (SAM), unimmunized children and children without access to education. Girls and boys including those with disabilities have been exposed to heightened risks of physical, mental, and sexual violence and abuse<sup>2</sup>, and millions of people lack access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene across the region.

Natural hazards, civil unrest, displacement and protracted conflicts continue to impact the lives of children across East Asia and the Pacific. In January 2021, the West Sulawesi earthquake in Indonesia killed 107 people and affecting 99,827 people.<sup>3</sup> The region also continued to be significantly affected by climate change, leading to more frequent and intense heatwaves, storms, floods and drought. Tropical storms and cyclones affected children in the Pacific Islands, Philippines, Indonesia, Cambodia and Viet Nam – in Viet Nam 7.7 million people were affected in 2021, including 2.5 million children.<sup>4</sup> Meanwhile heavy rains resulted in flash floods and landslides affecting households in China, Indonesia and Timor-Leste.<sup>5</sup> On 16 December 2021, Super Typhoon Rai (locally called Odette) swept through the Philippines. It brought with it torrential rains, violent winds, floods, and storm surges that resulted in 409 deaths, thousands of injuries, and over half a million displaced. The Typhoon severely disrupted essential services, resulting in widespread humanitarian needs and leaving 2.4 million people, including 912,000 children, requiring have required humanitarian assistance.<sup>6</sup>

In addition, protracted humanitarian situations due to unresolved conflict and political instability continue to affect the lives of millions of children and their families, including in DPRK, the Philippines, Indonesia and Papua New Guinea. Myanmar in particular has been experiencing an unprecedented humanitarian and human rights crisis with multiple challenges, including a political crisis, escalating conflict and violence, the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, climate-related disasters, rising poverty and a collapse in public services, having left an estimated 14.4 million people, including 5 million children, in need of humanitarian assistance.<sup>7</sup> The crisis in Myanmar has been having a catastrophic impact on children. Prior to the military takeover, just over a third were living below the poverty line. Hard-won gains in terms of child rights have been wiped out, with children killed, wounded, detained and witnessing terrifying scenes of violence. Almost 12 million children have been struggling to access

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<sup>2</sup> UNICEF, 2021 <https://www.unicef.org/rosa/press-releases/least-1-7-children-and-young-people-has-lived-under-stay-home-policies-most-last> and Hidden Impact of COVID-19 on Child Protection and Wellbeing, SCL, 2020 [https://resourcecentre.savethechildren.net/node/18174/pdf/the\\_hidden\\_impact\\_of\\_covid-19\\_on\\_child\\_protection\\_and\\_wellbeing.pdf](https://resourcecentre.savethechildren.net/node/18174/pdf/the_hidden_impact_of_covid-19_on_child_protection_and_wellbeing.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> MDRID020du1.pdf (reliefweb.int)

<sup>4</sup> UNICEF Viet Nam, Floods and Storms in Central Viet Nam Situation Report No. 6, [Vietnam-Floods-SitRep-2-March-2021.pdf](https://www.unicef.org/vietnam/Floods-SitRep-2-March-2021.pdf) (unicef.org)

<sup>5</sup> UNICEF Timor-Leste, Humanitarian Situation Report No. 6, [Timor-Leste-Humanitarian-Situation-Report-\(Flood\)-18-June-2021.pdf](https://www.unicef.org/timor-leste/Humanitarian-Situation-Report-(Flood)-18-June-2021.pdf) (unicef.org)

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.unicef.org/media/114971/file/2022-HAC-Philippines.pdf>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.unicef.org/media/111976/file/2022-HAC-Myanmar.pdf>



education, due to attacks on schools, intimidation of staff and COVID-19 school closures. Already weakened health services have been on the verge of collapse, with health workers experiencing intimidation and violence. Almost 1 million children have missed out on routine immunization and 5 million on vitamin A supplementation. Access to water, sanitation and hygiene has been disrupted, with more than 3 million children lacking access to a safe water supply at home, threatening a large-scale outbreak of diarrhea.

### **UNICEF EAPRO Support Framework**

As a region prone to recurrent natural and climate change related disasters as well as conflict-related humanitarian emergencies, EAPRO's support to the 14 country offices in the region increasingly focuses emergency preparedness and response (EPR) capacity building, disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation and risk-informed development programming, adopting a holistic approach to bridge development and humanitarian efforts. EAPRO continued to rely on and strengthen the Office Emergency Focal Point system in the region to integrate humanitarian action into regular programme implementation.

The general framework for the work of the EAPRO Emergency Unit comprises the following:

- **Supporting country offices in emergency preparedness and response**, both UNICEF programmes and the cluster-lead responsibility, through technical support to emergency preparedness (capacity building including trainings and simulations, quality assurance of preparedness plans and early warning), coordination, rapid assessment, inter-agency and/or UNICEF appeal documents, emergency response planning, monitoring and evaluation. UNICEF also maintains a rapid response fund to enable country offices to rapidly government emergency response efforts.
- **Strengthening child-centred disaster risk reduction (DRR) and resilience building**, including through a more systematic approach to risk assessment and integration of risk reduction approaches into country humanitarian and development programming.
- **Supporting sector technical capacity in UNICEF programmes and the cluster responsibility**, through missions, development and adaptation of coordination tools, and training and ongoing advocacy support.
- **Enhancing knowledge management and partnership in humanitarian action**, with tools and methodologies developed with partners, participation to UNICEF-specific technical assessments and evaluations, inter-agency after action review, and strengthened humanitarian partnerships.

## **5. Humanitarian Results**

### **Supporting CO in emergency preparedness and response**

Throughout 2021, EAPRO supported emergency responses in country offices by enhancing the country offices capacity to respond, providing technical and operational support in the development, implementation and monitoring of emergency response strategies. The regional emergency team worked closely with the regional sector specialists ensuring coordinated support to country offices in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and humanitarian emergencies in Myanmar, Timor-Leste, the



Philippines, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Cambodia and the Pacific. EAPRO's response work is described below under the heading of "supporting sector technical capacity in UNICEF programmes".

Likewise, emergency preparedness and response capacity of UNICEF Country Office's in the region was strengthened through the delivery of three remote EPR trainings and simulation exercises, and five specific preparedness training sessions targeting Lao PDR, Vietnam, Cambodia, Thailand, Mongolia, and Malaysia.

An online Humanitarian Action Workshop (HAW) webinar series brought together 14 Emergency Focal Points across the region to strengthen their learning and share lessons learnt and best practices on issues related to UNICEF's updated Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action (CCCs), engagement with the National Disaster Management Authorities (NDMAs), Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP), Sexual and Gender Based Violence in Emergency (SGBViE) and the integration of Risk Informed Programming (GRIP) in Country Programme Documents (CDPs).

The Regional Office also supported the new CCCs roll-out through a dedicated webinar session targeting regional Emergency Focal Points and the integration of the new CCCs in the EPR trainings delivered to Thailand and Cambodia. The RO also supported the first local language translation of the CCCs in the region into Thai.

In addition, the EAPRO risk monitoring and horizon scanning mechanism continued through regular quarterly calls with Country Offices to review their preparedness levels and to identify preparedness gaps and actions to address them. Risk monitoring and horizon scanning efforts were further complemented through regular technical support and assistance including the transitioning of emergency preparedness plans into a new and updated online platform that allows easier monitoring of CO preparedness levels. All these efforts resulted in 91% of the countries across the EAP region to be compliant with organisation-wide preparedness benchmarks. At the regional level, the regional emergency preparedness plan was further strengthened reaching an overall compliance score of 97%.

Targeted emergency preparedness and response support was also provided through remote assistance to Thailand, Myanmar, and the Philippines. For Myanmar in particular this type of support included the setting up of a Regional Emergency Management Team to guarantee adequate leadership for the L2 emergency.

110 UNICEF staff across the region remain trained members of the Rapid Regional Response Mechanisms (RRRM). The Regional Office also maintains a roster of seven emergency coordinator consultants that stand ready to deploy in case of emergency: one was deployed in 2021 to support the response in Myanmar. In 2021 the Regional Office also hired a regional AAP consultant and designated a refugee and displacement focal point within the unit to strengthen cross-sectoral preparedness actions on areas related to AAP, displacement, and population movements.

In 2021 the Regional Office strengthened its work on displacement and migration and integrated key elements of the ASEAN Declaration on Children Affected by Migration in the existing humanitarian programmes across the region. The RO provided technical oversight to the Indonesia Country Office on the implementation of the UNHCR-UNICEF Blueprint for Joint Action while collaborating with relevant global and regional counterparts on its quality assurance. The office also contributed to a UNHCR led analysis on the Protection at Sea situation of refugees, mainly Rohingyas, in South-East Asia, shading light on the plight faced by women and children at sea. As a member of the Regional Refugee preparedness coordination mechanism led by UNHCR for the Myanmar Crisis, the RO strengthened joint advocacy efforts on issues related to access to asylum, non-refoulment, birth registration and documentation. The Regional Office also supported Thailand in the development of

its emergency preparedness and response plan and established a Regional Early Warning, Early Action (EWEA) mechanism to predict potential displacement from Myanmar to neighboring countries.

## **DRR and resilience**

As part of the organisational commitment to the Sendai Framework on DRR, substantial progress has been made over the past years. This includes UNICEF's continuous engagement with and contributions at the regional level to the "Asia Pacific and UN Joint Strategic Plan of Action on DRR", Work Programme of ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER), and the Issue-Based Coalition on Building Resilience Work Plan. This has entailed close collaboration with UNDRR and other relevant UN Agencies and partners in supporting implementation and monitoring of the regional plans.

In 2021, the Regional Office continued to provide technical leadership and support to country offices in mainstreaming disaster risk reduction and risk-informed approaches into the country programmes. This entailed providing technical inputs and guidance on developing specific strategies, outcomes and indicators as part of the CPD development processes for Laos, Thailand and Vietnam. Technical support was also extended to country offices, notably Indonesia, Viet Nam and Cambodia, in designing and fine-tuning their hazard and vulnerability risk analyses to inform programme interventions.

Staff knowledge and capacities in disaster risk reduction programming were enhanced through dedicated interactions and workshops, including a webinar on risk-informed programming and a joint virtual regional climate and DRR network meeting. For the first time, the latter brought together the CO climate change and DRR focal points, thereby building synergy and coherence in the application of climate change and DRR approaches as part of the ongoing country programmes. Moreover, the RO successfully mobilized a multi-country grant for the Mekong region, while continued to oversee and quality assure the implementation in the Philippines, including supporting documentation of good practices and experiences in child-centered DRR. EAPRO also collaborated with its partner COPE to publish a new DRR children's book on droughts.

## **Supporting sector technical capacity in UNICEF programmes**

### Health in Emergencies

In 2021, EAPRO health section predominantly supported COs with preparation for COVID-19 vaccine rollout, as well as the COVID-19 response. This included providing webinars on supply chain management, Pfizer vaccine management, vaccine demand generation and community engagement, in coordination and collaboration with WHO Regional Offices. Virtual technical assistance was provided to country offices, as well as through consultants. Collaboration with fundraising and emergencies teams, and UNICEF HQ for resource mobilization for the operational costs for vaccine rollout, vaccine procurement and COVID-19 response was conducted, resulting in funding for countries for vaccine rollout, additional vaccines, diagnostics such as test kits, therapeutics such as oxygen plants and concentrators, and Personal Protective Equipment.

In the Philippines, a combined Measles rubella and bivalent Oral Polio Vaccine (bOPV) supplementary immunization campaign was activities were conducted in six regions in February for children under 5 years of age as a second phase of the national campaign reaching 4,497,596 children with measles rubella vaccine and 4,140, 582 children with the bOPV vaccine.

EAPRO together with WHO jointly conducted the polio outbreak response assessments for the Philippines and Malaysia, and based on the findings, the outbreaks were declared closed in those two countries.

#### Education in Emergencies (EiE)/ Early Childhood Development

In 2021, EAPRO continued to support Country Offices in education in emergency preparedness, planning and response. Due to COVID-19 and nationwide school closures, the education in emergencies response focused on the support of distance learning for affected students and teachers to ensure children's learning does not further deteriorate. Tailored support was provided to several COs on advocacy for school reopening, through supporting in drafting statements, live webinars and presentations to national stakeholders. Following one of the longest school closures in the world, by the end of 2021, the Philippines reopened 256 schools (still less than 1% of the total) as a pilot test for future broader reopening process.

The Regional Office provided continued support to the Myanmar Country Office in response to the L2 emergency by providing additional staffing and supporting major resource mobilization efforts as well as implementation of the programmes in Rakhine State specifically. UNICEF EAPRO supported the country office through the development and delivery of story books translated into 90 ethnic languages to children in pre-primary as a strategy to support their learning recovery. These materials benefited children of all 90 ethnic groups in Myanmar. The Philippines Country Office was supported following Typhoon Rai (Odette) through sharing technical resources, emergency planning, deployment of supplies and advocating for additional resources for the EiE response. Similar support was provided to country offices in Cambodia and Viet Nam following flooding caused by several cyclones and tropical storms.

In 2021, EAPRO continued to support Country Offices in Early Childhood Development (ECD) in Emergencies. Due to COVID-19 and nationwide closures of ECD services, the emergency response focused on tailor made support to CO in the development of tools for parents, caregivers and service providers to mitigate the devastating effects of lockdowns and suspension of services in child development and in preparation for service reopening, in particular in Timor-Leste. The Regional Office began specific work on generating knowledge on the impact of climate change and environmental degradation on young children and their families as an integral part of the ECD emergency preparedness and response strategy.

#### Child Protection in Emergencies (CPiE)

In 2021, the EAPRO Child Protection section continued to support Country Offices in strengthening child protection preparedness and response in emergencies. As part of continuous capacity development efforts, EAPRO delivered a virtual 8-part CPiE learning series to equip 45 UNICEF child protection staff and partners from 13 Country Offices with core knowledge and skills in child protection in emergency preparedness and response, as well as a technical deep dive series on community-led child protection in humanitarian settings in which 71 child protection practitioners participated from 16 countries across Asia and Pacific.

To increase quality, effectiveness, and accountability of the child protection response, EAPRO led the regional launch of the 2019 version of the Minimum Standards for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action (CPMS) in collaboration with UNHCR, SCI, WVI, and Plan International. Over 250 child

protection practitioners, humanitarian actors, and partners joined the virtual events and practitioner workshops from 12 countries in the region (Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Malaysia, Mongolia, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Thailand, Timor-Leste, and Viet Nam). The regional launch supported countries to raise awareness of the CPMS and provided tools and guidance to contextualise and implement the CPMS in various country settings. To support roll out at the country level, UNICEF provided orientation to 8,000 frontline workers in the Philippines to ensure they are able to integrate child protection preparedness and response initiatives in the local workplans of their municipality. The CPMS rollout contributed to the implementation of the Children's Emergency Relief and Protection Act (Republic Act 10821). In Mongolia, UNICEF developed a Standard Operating Procedure for child protection services during the pandemic in line with the CPMS, detailing the measures to be taken at the different levels of emergency contexts. This SOP was approved and immediately implemented by the Head of the State Emergency Commission. The Authority for Family, Child and Youth Development (AFCYD) reports that the SOP helped to ensure continuity of child protection services including 146,777 children infected with the COVID-19, alternative care services to 2,646 children temporarily placed in protection shelters and 110 children who lost one or both parents to COVID-19.

EAPRO provided remote technical support to Country Offices in their response to COVID-19 and other humanitarian situations. The Myanmar Country Office was supported in resource mobilization, staff recruitment, and sub-national child protection coordination. In December, following super typhoon Rai/Odette in the Philippines, EAPRO supported the Country Office in developing the child protection response in the inter-agency Humanitarian Needs and Priorities (HNP) plan and the recruitment of a CPiE consultant. In addition, the Cambodia Country Office was supported in successfully advocating for inclusion and integration of child protection into floods preparedness and shock responsive social protection.

### Nutrition in Emergencies

The development of an interactive open-source e-learning course, contextualized to the East Asia Pacific region, for primary health care workers who care with children with SAM was initiated. Nine of ten modules have been drafted and are currently undergoing review before being uploaded to the UNICEF Agora platform. The e-learning course is expected to facilitate the training of primary health care workers on SAM management, ensuring the standardized quality of training, particularly in lower levels of health care. The English version of the e-course will be developed in English and localized to Lao language. It will also have a provision for translation into other languages used in the East Asia Pacific region.

Four short videos capturing the impact of COVID-19 on family's access to food and their eating habits in four countries (Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines) and a short video summary were produced and publicly disseminated. The videos provided first-hand accounts from mothers and adolescents on the impact of COVID-19 on children's access to food and their eating habits. The videos highlighted that social protection plays a vital role in improving cases to nutritious foods during critical periods.

Two studies to improve the understanding of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on diets and disruption to nutrition services through the health system were implemented in Indonesia and the Philippines. The finding of these studies informed programme strategies to improve preparedness for similar emergencies in future.

Five countries in the region successfully trialled novel tools and methodologies, including U-reports, phone-based surveys and online surveys, to assess diet quality and practices among women, young children, and adolescents during the Covid-19. These new tools are promising in offering alternative flexible approaches to determine diet quality during emergencies where population-based surveys methodologies cannot be applied.

UNICEF EAPRO also reviewed UNICEF's programmatic nutrition responses throughout the East Asia Pacific region to document COVID-19 pandemic related programme adaptations. The findings from this review will inform further adaptation of programmes to the rapidly changing context and response to future pandemics.

The EAPRO Nutrition Section also provided technical assistance to 14 countries in the region in responding to the COVID pandemic. Key results for the nutrition sector in 2020, despite the programming setbacks brought by COVID-19, included: a) supporting seven countries in the region to strengthen national legal frameworks and legislation to prevent overweight breastfeeding; b) positioning five countries in EAP as frontrunner countries for the Global Action Plan on wasting and developing national operational roadmaps; and, c) and advancing regional thought leadership on nutrition through digital marketing studies, reports on sales of unhealthy food and drink, surveys among slum populations, reviews of retail food environments, and analyses of drivers of wasting.

### WASH in Emergencies

In 2021, EAPRO continued to support Country Offices in WASH preparedness, planning and response. In all countries, UNICEF supported governments with activities aimed at limiting the spread of COVID-19. The WASH support included behavioral change communications focused on hand hygiene and the provision of essential hand hygiene supplies to schools, health facilities, COVID testing, quarantine and treatment centers. In many countries, UNICEF worked with Ministries of Education, providing guidelines and in some cases essential WASH services to facilitate the safe re-opening of schools. To support learning and exchange, EAPRO reviewed lessons learned from the pandemic response in China, Mongolia, Myanmar, Pacific, Philippines, Timor-Leste and Vietnam.

To regionalize the Hand Hygiene for All global initiative, UNICEF EAPRO and ROSA offices collaborated in 2021 to expand and strengthen a group of Hand Hygiene for Asia partners, including WHO, World Bank, FANSA, IFRC, Plan International, World Business Council for Sustainable Development, and others. Together, this Asia-Pacific collaboration mobilized 200 people from the business and WASH sectors to support hand hygiene at a virtual conference titled Hand Hygiene for All: Mobilizing businesses to respond to and recover from COVID-19. The event explored how businesses can achieve and sustain universal hand hygiene in their workplaces and in the community and inspire innovation in the marketplace to address weaknesses in supplies and supply chain, during and as the world moves out of the pandemic. Participants recommended that UNICEF continue to produce market information as a public good; broker new collaborations and pilots with businesses at country level; and strengthen regional knowledge and learning platforms for business participation in WASH and the COVID-19 response.

UNICEF continued to respond to rapid onset emergencies and humanitarian crises with WASH support in a number of countries affected either by civil strife or climate related extreme weather events. During 2021, throughout the EAP region under UNICEF's emergency and humanitarian programming, 480,000 people were reached with basic drinking water supplies and 195,000 with sanitation facilities in the Philippines, Viet Nam, Cambodia, Myanmar, Timor-Leste, Kiribati, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu.

Technical support was provided to all the affected countries through technical and coordination support. EAPRO provided support to the Myanmar Country Office in response to the L2 emergency by supporting learning and exchange on programmatic and operational issues between Myanmar and other UNICEF offices facing similar challenges. In neighbouring Thailand, EAPRO supported the Country Office to strengthen WASH preparedness and response by forming new partnerships to meet humanitarian WASH needs of people fleeing violence along the border with Myanmar. EAPRO provided training to partners in the Thailand WASH Sector Working Group on protection in WASH, gender-based violence risk mitigation, prevention of sexual exploitation and assault, as well as WASH standards – strengthening the quality of response activities across the sector.

At the regional level, UNICEF continued to co-chair the Regional WASH Humanitarian Coordination Platform with IFRC. A new learning and collaboration agenda for this platform will focus on priority topics such as the triple nexus (humanitarian-development-peace), greening the response, protection and social inclusion and other areas in need of collective strengthening. The joint UNICEF-UNHCR Blueprint programme also continued in Indonesia.

In Myanmar and Philippines, EAPRO supported the COs to pilot WASH as an entry point for peace building and conflict sensitivity, with engagement of young people as agents of change. In both places, COs worked with partners to carry out a water management and WASH conflict analysis in 2021, and will continue in 2022 to design and implement conflict-sensitive interventions and build social cohesion while engaging young people as agents of change for peacebuilding.

The EAPRO WASH team also continued to support the Blue-Print programme in Indonesia, providing technical assistance in strategy review. In 2020, the Regional WASH Humanitarian Coordination Group was re-convened under the co-leadership of UNICEF and the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Society after having been dormant for several years.

### Shock-Responsive Social Protection

In 2021, the EAPRO Social Policy section continued to support Country Offices in their social protection responses to Covid-19. Early in the year, EAPRO commissioned an (After) Action Review of UNICEF Covid-19 responses in 2020. The internal review informed UNICEF's actions on Social Protection in Emergencies and was complemented by a compendium of UNICEF support to government responses. EAPRO did also commission a systematic review of government's social protection responses to Covid-19 and developed an advocacy paper to protect public investment on social sectors, including social protection. Social Policy continued its support and participation in the Regional Cash Working Group.

On the DRR front, EAPRO continued its regional partnership with FAO, WFP and the German Red Cross for scaling up anticipatory action and shock responsive social protection (SRSP) in ASEAN. While this second iteration of the ECHO funded joint project came to an end in December 2021, the evaluation showed the important contributions brought about by UNICEF in advancing SRSP as a DRRM tool. A regional landscape analysis on disaster risk financing for social protection in Southeast Asia was carried out by UNICEF and policy options validated in a consultation with ASEAN Secretariat. A proposal for a new phase of the ECHO project was submitted to ECHO as part of the 2022 HIP.

In February, EAPRO supported the delivery of an online training on humanitarian cash transfer to the Philippines and Myanmar country offices. After the training, the two country offices stepped up their cash programming considerably. On the one hand, in Myanmar the Regional Office provided continued technical support and advise to the Country Office in their transition into humanitarian cash transfers programming. Based on a thorough needs assessment, a Humanitarian Child Grant (HCG) proposal was developed by the MCO in consultation with EAPRO and HQ-EMOPS. EAPRO Social Policy

provided support to the procurement of financial service providers (FSP) to support the disbursement of cash transfers in 2022 (first payouts expected in April 2022). By December, arrangements were started for the deployment of UNICEF's Management Information System, HOPE, to support cash payouts for the Bright Start (mobile-based micro-health insurance), HCG currently being implemented in peri-urban townships in Yangon, and disability grant.

The Philippines Country Office on the other hand, was supported in December following Typhoon Rai (Odette), which resulted in the inclusion of a social protection in emergencies component in the HAC. Philippines also started the process for deploying HOPE to support the delivery of cash transfers under the joint SDG Fund in Mindanao (expected by March 2022).

### Sexual and Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies (SGBViE)

The Regional Office provided technical expertise on SGBViE to increase the capacity of UNICEF COs and partners to prevent, mitigate and respond to gender-based violence (GBV). This involved a rapid assessment of actions to prevent, mitigate and respond to GBV across 13 COs in the EAP region. Based on this analysis the RO developed and delivered a regional learning series and capacity building plan for focal points on SGBViE risk mitigation, programming model and response services and support. In addition, technical support was provided to four country offices in the integration of SGBViE into UNICEF's emergency preparedness plans (Timor Leste, Mongolia, PNG and China). The RO also developed and disseminated guidance notes on GBViE risk mitigation in WASH, Nutrition, Education, Health, and SGBViE in Preparedness actions, and documented country case studies on SGBViE.

### Disability-inclusive humanitarian action

The Regional Office collaborated with country teams to ensure that the emergency response plans were disability inclusive, and that Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (OPD) were consulted and engaged in planning and response. UNICEF in Timor-Leste, for instance, seized this opportunity to expand its partnership with youth and with organizations of persons with disabilities, thus providing a first step towards operationalizing the 2021-2025 country programme's focus on inclusion and participation of vulnerable or excluded groups.

To gather feedback on learning needs and priorities in UNICEF country teams, UNICEF EAPRO launched a survey amongst disability focal points, emergency focal points and other programme staff. This allowed the RO to better define regional approaches, objectives and contents for training on disability inclusion in humanitarian action. Subsequently, UNICEF EAPRO trained 33 Disability and Emergency focal points from 11 COs on the foundations in including children with disabilities in humanitarian action (pilot module). The RO will support the country-level roll out of the global training module in 2022, based on the feedback received from the participants and RO facilitators involved in the pilot. EAPRO also organized a webinar on Disability Data and Evidence in Humanitarian Action in collaboration with the HQ Disability Section, joined by 48 participants from 13 COs. The webinar provided a comprehensive overview of disability data across the cycle of humanitarian programme including preparedness and recovery, introduced key principles, practical tips and tools. Furthermore, the technical guidance on disability inclusive programming under the COVID-19 pandemic<sup>8</sup>, developed in 2020, was applied by country offices in the region, particularly those where schools closed under

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<sup>8</sup> This includes: Minimum Care Package for Children with Disabilities; Frontline Response to Children with Disabilities and COVID-19; and, Ensuring an inclusive return to school for children with disabilities. See: <https://unicef.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=ffb205d87eb3609338ae4932b&id=824659e017&e=87df9f383f>



periods of lock down. In Cambodia, for instance, new distance teaching and learning approaches were expanded at pre-primary, primary and secondary levels including interventions for children with disabilities. UNICEF Philippines strengthened the Department of Education's online learning platform with disability-specific digital resources to ensure that learning is equitable and accessible for every Filipino child. These and other best practices have been documented.

UNICEF EAPRO enhanced internal and external collaboration towards disability inclusive humanitarian response contributing to the regional mapping of engagement of OPDs in GBV and CP Coordination Groups. To promote OPD engagement in humanitarian response including public health emergencies, UNICEF EAPRO documented four case studies from Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, and the Philippines. In-depth research in Malaysia and Indonesia has led to lessons learned, used to inform global technical guidance on meaningful engagement of OPDs. This guidance will be rolled out in the region in 2022.

By Q3 of 2021, EAPRO has put in place a Disability Inclusion in Emergencies roster with a repository of pre-qualified experts who have experience in a range of areas relevant to preparedness and response for situation of emergency and humanitarian action. Such roster will shorten the process of hiring of consultants to support UNICEF's programming on Disability Inclusion in Emergencies.

#### Communication for Development (C4D)

Technical guidance and support were provided to UNICEF country offices in EAPR to develop, implement, track and monitor Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) plans for the introduction of COVID 19 vaccines. This was carried out in conjunction with the support for continued RCCE for the prevention of COVID 19 through the adoption of COVID 19 appropriate behaviours among families and communities. In collaboration with the emergency section, planning templates and guidance were also developed and disseminated among country offices. This helped country offices develop systematic RCCE plans of action.

Along with the Health section and in collaboration with WHO, technical reviews of the demand generation and risk communication components of the National Deployment and Vaccination Plans for COVID 19 vaccines (NDVPs) were supported for Philippines, Vietnam, Cambodia, Papua New Guinea, Laos, Solomon Islands, Mongolia, Fiji, Samoa, Vanuatu, Kiribati, Tonga, Micronesia and Tuvalu. These reviews helped in facilitating improvements in the quality of the demand generation and risk communication components of these plans.

Capacity building webinars were organized in collaboration with WHO to ensure that countries had the necessary skills and capacities to effectively rollout RCCE for the introduction of COVID 19 vaccines. These included:

1. Planning for COVID-19 vaccine risk communication and community engagement
2. Communicating vaccine-related crises and AEFIs
3. Social listening and evidence for decision making
4. Community engagement for COVID-19 vaccines
5. Managing the COVID-19 vaccine Infodemics
6. Demand management

To further support country offices to effectively rollout RCCE initiatives, technical guidelines were developed in collaboration with the WHO office for the western pacific region. These were meant to supplement the ones developed in 2020 and included job aids for health workers to carry out sessions with clients and FAQs.

In collaboration with the WHO regional office for the western pacific region, a range of communication assets were produced to support RCCE efforts for the reopening of schools in the region. These have been widely used across countries to support their efforts around communicating for the reopening of schools.

The regional RCCE working group that was established in 2020 to provide technical guidance and coordination support on COVID-19 RCCE preparedness and response in the Asia Pacific region continued its operations through 2021. Chaired by UNICEF, WHO and IFRC, members included several UN agencies, INGOs and NGOs. The RCCE working group remained active in coordinating RCCE actions across partners, ensuring knowledge exchange and carrying out capacity building initiatives for risk communicators in the region.

Surge support, consultancy support as well as priority funding was facilitated for PNG as a priority country in the region in relation to RCCE for COVID 19 prevention and vaccine introduction.

#### Technology for Development (T4D)

In 2021, UNICEF's ICT & Digital Innovation team continued to address the increased need for the use of technology for programme delivery, monitoring and evaluation in Country Offices in emergency and humanitarian action in the context of COVID-19 outbreak throughout the East Asia and Pacific region.

The Regional Office provided continued specialized support in the use of digital technologies for collection, analysis and visualization of data and real-time monitoring in preparation and response to emergencies. In order to provide COs with a stable, secure, and vetted system for rapid data collection in the field, the section developed InForm, a data collection platform that was brought to production in 2021. At least three countries have adopted InForm, including Myanmar. In the context of preparing UNICEF's response to an inflow of refugees in Thailand, the section supported the CO in the creation of a rapid-need assessment digital tool that is currently ready and available for rapid deployment. Myanmar CO has been continuously supported in the selection, procurement, and deployment of ODK-based digital data collection tools, as well as in the use of RapidPro. In response to the COVID-19 emergency, the section supported the application of Frontier Data Technologies to measure mobility levels and assess the effectiveness of stay-at-home policies in Indonesia CO and across the Region. A similar big data approach has been explored to provide countries in the Region with automated Situation Reports, particularly focusing on supporting Philippines CO in the aftermath of the typhoon Rai (Odette).

Technical guidance and support were provided to UNICEF country offices in EAPR to advocate the use of digital platforms for the introduction of COVID 19 vaccines. In collaboration with the Digital Health Center of Excellence (DICE), UNICEF initiated a country mapping of relevant Digital Health tools and technologies that can be leveraged to support countries' health initiatives and other sectors, for their response to COVID-19 and beyond. The mapping is organized around priority areas that support countries in assessing program readiness to introduce COVID-19 vaccines, identify gaps and prioritize actions for enhanced readiness, and identify opportunities for financial support.

The RO has developed robust selection and procurement guidelines to better support COs to implement Logistics Management Information Systems (LMIS) platforms and Immunization Information Systems (IIS) for both routine immunization and COVID-19. These workstreams include pre-qualification matrices, as well as detailed functional and non-functional requirements to enable benchmarking of existing solutions in the market, and a draft Terms of Reference (TOR) for procurement. The RO supported LMIS work in Mongolia and the Philippines in 2021 and IIS work in Cambodia. The RO is supporting the implementation in EAPR of a digital health worker training

content library sourced by the Digital Health & Information Systems unit at UNICEF HQ. The support includes securing CO buy-in and helping to present the concept to MoH as well as working with the Communication for Development (C4D)/Social Behavior and Change (SBC) team to contextualize and augment the existing COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy content. In Papua New Guinea EAPRO supported the expansion of an LMIS system, and facilitated the inclusion of modules on digital literacy, safeguarding and misinformation for health workers.

## **Knowledge Management**

In 2021, EAPRO continued to serve as a conduit for knowledge exchange and sharing on disaster and climate resilience policies and practices. The RO actively disseminated information to the Emergency/DRR focal points in the region through multiple avenues, including bilateral calls, email communication, virtual meetings, RO Digest and Share Point site. The RO organized a dedicated webinar on UNICEF's global guidance on risk informed programming (GRIP) to help strengthen knowledge and capacities of CO staff in climate and disaster resilience programming. The meeting provided an excellent opportunity for COs to learn about the latest corporate policies including the recognition of resilience as a core change strategy in the new Strategic Plan 2022-2025, while also providing a forum to exchange on practical, country-specific experiences and good practices.

The Regional Office also organized regional webinars on the use of data for Humanitarian Response, and digital health webinars while working in collaboration with external stakeholders to provide guidance to the countries on the efficient and effective use of innovation and technology for the introduction of COVID-19 vaccines. These included a WHO-UNICEF Global Webinar on COVID-19 Vaccine Digital Certificates, GIS-based Digital Microplanning in Support of COVID-19 Vaccine Deployment, Digital Solutions in Support of COVID-19 Vaccine Deployments, and webinars on seven GAVI pre-approved LMIS systems.

## **6. Results Achieved from Humanitarian Thematic Funding**

In 2021, global thematic funding allowed EAPRO to undertake various preparedness activities and respond to emergency situations in Timor-Leste, Thailand, Philippines, Cambodia, Lao PDR and Myanmar. At the same time, it allowed to strengthen essential cross-sectoral emergency preparedness and response capacities in Disability Inclusion, Early Childhood Development, Shock-Responsive Social Protection, and Technology for Development. It specifically contributed to strengthen Sexual and Gender-based Violence prevention and response both at regional level and in Cambodia, Viet Nam and Papua New Guinea.

### **Timor-Leste**

UNICEF Timor-Leste used Global Humanitarian Thematic (GHT) Funding channeled through the Regional Office to respond to the flood emergency in February 2021. UNICEF supported the immediate provision of essential supplies for personal hygiene management and domestic cleaning, reaching about 520 females and 480 males in the capital Dili. UNICEF also supported Dili Municipality with rented cars to transport health teams to provide outreach health services to the displaced persons and persons trapped/cut-off by the floods. For the first time a partnership with a local NGO comprised of people with disabilities was established to assess the disability-inclusiveness of WASH infrastructure provided under the emergency response. A team of 3 persons with different disabilities and UNICEF

WASH engineers undertook these assessments in 4 municipalities. Their recommendations were used for upgrades of existing WASH infrastructure and improving existing designs for future infrastructure.

In addition, UNICEF Timor-Leste has played a key role in raising awareness on COVID-19 prevention. In support of this objective, UNICEF has worked with the public broadcaster, Radio Television Timor-Leste (RTTL), television station to broadcast two television spots four times each day at prime time on COVID-19 prevention measures. Between January and February 2021, the spots were broadcast 136 times. The measures promoted included handwashing, maintaining a physical distance and wearing a mask. RTTL has the widest reach of the television stations in Timor-Leste and television is cited as one of the main platforms from which people across the country get their information on COVID-19 prevention or vaccine uptake.

UNICEF also boosted the capacity of the Ministry of Health as well as Municipalities to enhance advocacy and community mobilization for COVID-19 prevention. 10 out of 13 (76.9%) Municipalities were provided with fuel to conduct social mobilization activities. UNICEF also supported the social mobilization in schools in Dili Municipality for the roll-out of COVID-19 vaccine for adolescent children 12-<18 years old. The support included procurement of a vehicle, a fully equipped truck with communication equipment for advocacy and community mobilization activities.

Global Humanitarian Thematic (GHT) funding was also utilized for effective monitoring of WASH emergency responses by both UNICEF and the Ministry of Health (MOH). Lack of MOH monitoring of WASH interventions has been a major constraint but, thanks to GHT funding, UNICEF was able to support both the infrastructure and environmental health departments organize joint monitoring and supervision.

In support of sustaining behaviors associated with the new UNICEF provided WASH infrastructure (with other resources), permanent message boards were established using this grant at 2 border entry points and 3 quarantine centers. The illustrative message boards targeted hand hygiene, menstrual hygiene as well as proper usage of facilities benefitting approximately 300 persons per month for people in COVID-19 isolation facilities and 1,000 mobile persons per day, mainly people crossing the borders.

Since the COVID-19 pandemic started, UNICEF doubled efforts to reach and support the most vulnerable children and families. As part of the emergency response UNICEF, in the parentship of the Ministry of Social Solidarity and Inclusion, distributed awareness-raising information and referral materials among the population and different services. Complementary, UNICEF trained more than 60 caregivers and technical teams from Institutional Care Facilities in COVID 19 prevention and First Aid; in addition, hygiene, first aid, and recreational kits were distributed among 21 Institutions supporting more than 600 children in alternative care.

### Thailand

Since April 2021, Thailand has been grappling with successive waves of COVID-19 and the resulting surge of new infections. The increased rate of infections severely constrained the Government's response efforts, with healthcare facilities experiencing a very high burden of COVID-19 cases. Lockdown measures put in place to stop the spread and lessen the effects of COVID-19 triggered an end to face to face contacts, affected learning for over 13 million children and adolescents.

UNICEF facilitated timely access to health and social services for confirmed cases of COVID-19 in target areas and case management support for those who are in quarantine. As a result, 795 people received

health case management services (277 adults and 518 children), including services such as screening, testing, first aid, initial support, basic treatment and care, referral, and family reintegration. UNICEF also supported training on COVID-19 prevention, initial screening, process, children's rights, child protection, measurement of home isolation and psychological first aid to 28 community/migrant health volunteers (18 women, 10 men) who then carried out risk communication activities to strengthen efforts within migrant communities and reached more than 1,165 community members and leaders (396 adults and 769 children) on COVID-19 prevention, sharing messages and engaging others to establish prevention measures in 18 migrant communities in Sangkhlaburi district.

UNICEF provided psychological first aid support to 472 people (314 adults and 158 children) through home visits and small-scale child/adolescent safe spaces in community isolation centers and Child Protection case management services to 163 children (81 girls, 82 boys). 386 children (204 girls, 182 boys) benefited from milk, toys and books for their development, recreation and creativity, lately made inaccessible by the pandemic as schools were closed and physical contact with peers and the outside world was limited by social distancing.

In addition, two water tanks and two disinfected machines for community isolation were distributed to vulnerable communities benefiting an estimated 1,800 people.

### Philippines

With global humanitarian thematic funding, UNICEF Philippines was able to support the emergency response to Typhoon Rai (Odette) in December 2021. Funding was used to strengthen the nutrition response through the recruitment of 10 Nutrition Cluster Information Management Officers to support the affected regions on coordination and information management. UNICEF provided 2,277 cartons (31.4 metric tons) of ready-to-use therapeutic food: 446 to Southern Leyte and 1,811 to CARAGA, benefitting approximately 2,277 children with severe acute malnutrition. In addition, the Department of Health (DOH)-procured nutrition commodities and supplies (3,975 boxes of micronutrient powder, 1,930 breastfeeding kits, and 10,000 mid-upper arm circumference tapes) were transported to Region VI, VII, VIII, X, and CARAGA with UNICEF's support.

Using the thematic funding, UNICEF was also able to procure 200 modular tents for use in evacuation centers and health facilities, with the purpose of enhancing infection prevention and control measures in these spaces in the context of COVID-19. The tents can accommodate 600 people, with the potential of being reused by local government in future emergencies.

UNICEF also supported a partnership with Samaritan's Purse to deliver community-based health services, including vaccination to affected communities. Through the partnership 665 frontline health workers were trained in strengthening of infection prevention and control measures for COVID-19, which will be continued until mid-2022. As a result, a total of 350 women and children were reached with community-based health services.

Through the same partnership, UNICEF conducted refresher trainings for 688 frontline workers on the management of acute malnutrition, infant and young child feeding, and nutrition in emergencies in Southern Leyte and CARAGA Region. To date, 24,861 children, 6–59 months old, have been screened for acute malnutrition. Twenty-one (21) children started treatment for wasting – bringing the total to 139 children. An initial 13,170 children, 6–59 months, have received vitamin A supplementation, and 242 children, 6–23 months, received micronutrient powder. Furthermore, a total of 1,757 pregnant and lactating women have received iron and folic acid, and 5,180 primary

caregivers have been reached with infant and young child feeding counselling. These responses are incorporated in the package of intervention along with health services.

### Cambodia

With GHT funding, UNICEF Cambodia was able to support the government to provide WASH cleaning and hygiene supplies to four point of entries (PoE) and 66 quarantines/treatment centers (QCs/TCs) for migrant workers returning from Thailand in 2021. UNICEF supplied soap to four PoEs (one in Battambang province and three in Banteay Meanchey province) for daily handwashing. On average, there were 100-150 workers crossing each of PoE every day. A total of 66 centers (35 QCs and 31 TCs) in five provinces bordering Thailand (Battambang, Pailin, Banteay Meanchey, Otdar Meanchey and Siem Reap) received cleaning and hygiene supplies including sanitary pads. These supplies benefited 11,721 migrants workers including 5,610 female and 250 children.

In response to COVID-19 pandemic and the increased risk of GBV, UNICEF enhanced its actions together with partners to prevent, mitigate and respond to GBV. Initially, this involved translation into Khmer language of the [global GBV pocket guide](#) app made accessible to all social workers and front-line workers. The pocket guide was then used to train 600 social service workers and quarantine centers staff on GBV risk mitigation and response, in three provinces which received the most returning migrants. As a result, community members, especially girls and women, have benefitted from information and referrals to GBV response services, risk mitigation and awareness raising activities conducted by trained social service workers and quarantine center staff. Additionally, UNICEF supported GBV prevention messages included in the behavioral change campaign Cambodia PROTECT to end violence against women and children, aiming to reach 2.5 million people by mid-2022. Finally, UNICEF has supported GBV response services through strengthening case management, referral and provision of services to GBV survivors, with a target of reaching at least 150 children exposed to GBV, by mid-June 2022.

### Lao PDR

Co-procured with other funding, the Global Humanitarian Thematic contribution was used to procure IT equipment (laptops, projectors, mobile wifi pockets, etc.) for 16 boarding schools under the supervision of the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare. These items helped around 8,000 students to continue accessing digital learning platforms and enjoy recreational content despite the COVID-19-related school closure. Other items procured with support from Global Humanitarian Thematic Funding were the speaker and helpline sets for the Lao Women's Union in Bokeo Province – known for high risks of trafficking and sexual exploitation – for awareness-raising of services for survivors of violence against women and children and training of 47 frontline staff (F41 M6) on mental health and psychosocial support, gender-based violence and prevention and response to sexual exploitation and abuse. In addition, financial support from the Global Humanitarian Thematic Funding supported the design, translation and printing of around 500 copies of the violence reporting and counselling helpline posters across quarantine centres and residential care institutions in Lao PDR.

Following a needs assessment of the Quarantine Centers that were established for immigrants returning to Lao, thematic funding was used to procure 10,550 long-lasting insecticidal nets (LLIN) to prevent mosquito-born diseases such as malaria and to reduce associated morbidity and mortality. The LLINs have been distributed to 45 Quarantine Centers nationwide in 18 provinces and to three COVID-19 referral hospitals in Vientiane. A total of 17,313 people including 65 pregnant women and 335 children below 18 years benefited from this intervention.

Master training on Oxygen Therapy for the treatment of severe cases of COVID 19 has been supported for Pediatricians. The training included the use of Oxygen Concentrators which have been provided to hospitals to treat people with severe pneumonia caused by COVID 19. Training materials and content have been developed in close collaboration with the experts of the University of Melbourne, Australia. After having received the Master training the Pediatricians organized several workshops in the provinces to train doctors and health workers on Oxygen Therapy. With thematic funding one of such training was supported in the Provincial Health Office of Luang Prabang. A total of 34 persons attended the training. Participants included doctors, pediatricians, nurses, and midwives. In addition, a training on Integrated Management of Newborn and Child Illness (IMNCI) was conducted in Provincial Health Office (PHO) of Luang Prabang, where 45 health workers received a training for 5 days.

### Myanmar

UNICEF ensured that implementing partners established feedback mechanisms in their interventions by conducting consultation meetings with them at State level and briefing them on the need to embed accountability to affected population (AAP) considerations in all interventions. UNICEF has developed a data collection tool to track complaints and feedbacks from beneficiaries and shared it with partners to obtain information on complaints and feedbacks related to UNICEF programming, and fed this information into this data collection tool.

Due to the intense security condition in Myanmar throughout the year, many partners did not have regular access to project locations and thus had less ability to seek feedback and input from beneficiaries. To address these challenges, UNICEF discussed with program sections staff and partners to develop AAP indicators to be included in all new programme documents which will allow data and information to be collected from partner reports. AAP indicators were developed in most of the program documents (PDs) which were newly developed, and that led to systematic data collection and reporting of complaints and feedback from beneficiaries through partners. Those partners have established complaint and feedback mechanisms reaching **118,796 individuals** out of which **41,578 were children**.

Training modules on AAP were developed in both English and Myanmar language which covered the topics for basic concepts and principles of AAP, integration of AAP in the ways we work and AAP in action. AAP questions were also developed in the formats of third-party monitoring and programmatic visit so that affected population will have broader channels to provide their feedback. Briefing sessions for third-party monitors were provided periodically on the AAP questionnaires.

A digital platform named “Community voice project” was created to seek the feedback of the beneficiaries directly. The platform is using the RapidPro software and Viber channels for real time monitoring of community feedback.

### Viet Nam

In response to COVID-19 pandemic and ongoing natural disasters, and the increased risk of GBV, UNICEF and partners enhanced actions to prevent, mitigate and respond to GBV. Initially, UNICEF undertook a rapid assessment of the increased risk of violence against women and children during COVID-19 and used the data to inform programming and advocacy. Further, UNICEF supported 600 women and child survivors of violence to access telephone counselling and mental health and psycho-social support, including referrals for safe shelter and accommodation and other services. Additionally, UNICEF supported the training of 800 social welfare officers, child protection officers and



national GBV helpline staff who were equipped with increased knowledge and skills through online training on case management for GBV and child protection and mental health and psycho-social support (MHPSS) in emergencies. In response to COVID-19 and flooding UNICEF provided 660 women and children with Dignity Kits, including sanitary napkins, hygiene products, and information how to access GBV services and support for survivors of violence. In terms of GBV risk mitigation, UNICEF is supporting the Government of Vietnam in the development of guidelines on prevention and response to violence against women and children in quarantine facilities and at home during COVID-19 and GBV and child protection case management guidelines. Finally, UNICEF plans to reach around 20 million people through awareness messages on prevention of Violence Against Women and Children via mass and social media, and loudspeakers in disaster-affected communities by mid-2022.

### Papua New Guinea

UNICEF has supported the National toll-free GBV Hotline 1-Tok Kaunselin Helpim Lain, implemented by Child Fund, including assisting the hotline to expand to a 24-hr service and supporting case management practices and standards. The hotline recorded over 11,000 instances of violence in 12 months. While many services for GBV were suspended or scaled down due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the hotline filled a critical gap for women and children experiencing violence and abuse. UNICEF support has helped ensure 1,349 children (609 girls, 740 boys) and 3,731 adults (1179 females, 1948 males) could access the National GBV helpline and were provided with case management and mental health and psycho-social support services. UNICEF support has also strengthened the hotline's GBV data collection system, which can play a crucial role in generating evidence on GBV across the country that is necessary to advocate for allocation of resources to essential services for women and children, to ensure data-driven effective programming, as well as advocate for legal reforms.

### China

China was the first country to experience the COVID-19 pandemic and UNICEF China supported the government response to the pandemic. Funding received for this emergency response allowed UNICEF China to attend to beneficiary needs by providing life-saving interventions through the distributions of medical equipment, medical supplies and through risk communication and community engagement. Details of these activities were provided in the 2020 COVID-19 emergency response report. In 2021, the small amount of remaining funds was consumed to support reporting activities and document UNICEF China's 2020 COVID-19 response. Information was captured and shared through donor reports and annual reporting. This further supported UNICEF China's emergency preparedness in 2021.

## **Humanitarian Thematic Funding Case Study**

Countries in East Asia and the Pacific bear the brunt of disasters triggered by natural hazards worldwide, with over 70 per cent of all disaster affected people living in the region. Many of these natural disasters, further compounded by the effects of climate change, are sudden-onset event, such as cyclones, floods, earthquakes and tsunamis. To be able to swiftly support countries in the region affected by these disasters and provide life-saving support to children, EAPRO has established a regional Emergency Preparedness and Response Fund which is primarily financed through Humanitarian Thematic Funding support. This fund allows the RO to immediately make critical resources available within 48 hours after a disaster strikes.

The funding is released to UNICEF country offices for critical interventions such as the delivery of safe drinking water, life-saving medical treatment for children and mothers, and protection services for

children. In some instances, the Fund can also be used for emergency preparedness, for instance to pre-position critical emergency supplies for a swift and effective emergency response once a disaster hits.

In 2021, The Regional Emergency Response Fund was activated in response to the flood emergency in Timor-Leste, supporting the immediate provision of essential supplies; the COVID-19 migrant returnee crisis in Cambodia and Lao PDR, providing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and hygiene supplies for quarantine and treatment centers; the humanitarian situation in Myanmar, focusing on accountability to affected populations reaching 77,218 adults and 118,796 children; and the Typhoon Rai (Odette) response in the Philippines.

Through allocations made through the Regional Emergency Response Fund, UNICEF Philippines was able to reach 2,277 children with severe acute malnutrition with ready-to-use therapeutic food, 350 women and children with community-based health services, 13,170 children, 6–59 months, with vitamin A supplementation, and 242 children, 6–23 months, with micronutrient powder. Furthermore, a total of 1,757 pregnant and lactating women have received iron and folic acid, and 5,180 primary caregivers have been reached with infant and young child feeding counselling.

## 7. Assessment, Monitoring and Evaluation

EAPRO provided technical support and quality assurance for COVID-19 response and vaccination support plans of 14 country offices and maintained the regional COVID-19 humanitarian performance monitoring system established the previous year. EAPRO also ensured the quality of reporting and monitoring mechanisms, developing four regional situation reports. EAPRO also continued to conduct risk monitoring and horizon scanning of non-COVID-19 hazards for countries in the region in order to trigger early actions and prioritize support practical preparedness interventions. Based on this analysis, quarterly risk monitoring and preparedness calls were conducted with country offices to discuss strengthening preparedness measures and any support required from the regional office.

## 8. Financial Analysis

A total of financial contribution to EAPRO received and available by donor and funding type is summarized in the tables below. There is a continued need for predictable, flexible funding for humanitarian programme delivery, technical support and capacity building to link humanitarian efforts with development programmes in the region.

**Table 1: 2020 Funding Status against the Appeal by Sector (in USD):**

*Not applicable for the Regional Office*

**Table 2: Funding received and available by donor and funding type**

This table includes all resource partners and all types of funding received and available for emergency activities in the humanitarian appeals.

<b>Table 2 - Funding Received and Available by 31 December 2021 by Donor and Funding type (in USD)</b>		
<b>Donor Name/Type of funding</b>	<b>Programme Budget Allotment reference</b>	<b>Overall Amount*</b>
<b>I. Humanitarian funds received in 2021</b>		
<b>a) Thematic Humanitarian Funds</b>		
See details in Table 3	SM/18/9910	563,477.22
See details in Table 3	SM/20/9910	1,297,062
<b>b) Non-Thematic Humanitarian Funds</b>		
FCDO-UK (HIP)	SM/17/0463	104,840
United States Fund for UNICEF (Tides Foundation)	SM/21/0219	98,000
German Committee for UNICEF	SM/21/0933	112,613
<b>Total Non-Thematic Humanitarian Funds</b>		<b>315,453</b>
<b>c) Pooled Funding</b>		
<b>(i) CERF Grants</b>		
<b>(ii) Other Pooled funds</b> - including Common Humanitarian Fund (CHF), Humanitarian Response Funds, Emergency Response Funds, UN Trust Fund for Human Security, Country-based Pooled Funds etc.		
N/A		
<b>d) Other types of humanitarian funds</b>		
N/A		
<b>Total humanitarian funds received in 2021</b>		<b>2,511,233</b>
<b>II. Carry-over of humanitarian funds available in 2021</b>		
<b>e) Carry over Thematic Humanitarian Funds</b>		
Thematic Humanitarian Funds	SM/18/9910	<b>1,123,106</b>
Thematic Humanitarian Funds	SM/20/9910	<b>61,281</b>
<b>f) Carry-over of non-Thematic Humanitarian Funds</b>		
FCDO -UK (HIP)	SM170463	<b>37,028</b>
US Fund for UNICEF (Cargill)	SM190476	<b>92,876</b>
British Government-FCDO	SM200202	<b>3,620</b>
Temasek	SM200755	<b>321,768</b>
USA (State) BPRM	SM200594	<b>33,612</b>
Japan	SM200368	<b>28,724</b>
<b>Total carry-over non-Thematic Humanitarian Funds</b>		<b>517,628</b>
<b>Total carry-over humanitarian funds</b>		<b>1,702,015</b>

**Table 2: Funding received and available by donor and funding type**

III. Other sources		
N/A		
<b>Total other resources</b>		<b>0</b>

**Table 3: Thematic Humanitarian Contributions Received in 2021**

*Applicability*

Only COs and ROs that have received country-level, regional, or Global Humanitarian Thematic contributions from resource partners in 2021 must complete this table.

<b>Thematic Humanitarian Contributions Received in 2021 (in USD): Donor</b>	<b>Grant Number<sup>9</sup></b>	<b>Programmable Amount (in USD)</b>	<b>Total Contribution Amount (in USD)</b>
United States Fund for UNICEF	SM189910-0374	13,477.22	14,151.08
Allocation from global Thematic Humanitarian*	SM189910	550,000	580,251.10
Allocation from global Thematic Humanitarian*	SM209910	550,000	577,577.33
OneLove Asia Campaign	SM209910-0091	7,125.87	7,482.16
French Committee for UNICEF	SM209910-0169	284,462.65	298,685.78
Australian NATCOM	SM209910-0181	338,325.70	355,241.99
Australian NATCOM	SM209910-0174	100,742.48	105,779.60
UK NATCOM	SM209910-0046	16,405.3	17,225.58
<b>Total</b>		<b>1,860,539.22</b>	<b>1,956,394.22</b>

*\*Global Thematic Humanitarian Funding contributions are pooled and then allocated to country and regional offices by EMOPS. A detailed list of grants will be available in the 2021 Humanitarian Action Global Annual Results Report.*

## 9. Future Work Plan

EAPRO will continue to work with country offices and Governments to facilitate adequate and swift emergency responses to humanitarian disasters in the region in line with the Core Commitments for Children and with consideration of compounded risk related to COVID-19; particularly in the areas of coordination, WASH, health, nutrition, education and child protection, with a focus on programme integration and cross-sectoral programming in gender, disability inclusion, SGBViE, early childhood development and adolescence. In cases of major disasters that surpass country capacities, EAPRO will complement national capacity by providing surge capacity and support.

EAPRO will continue to support country offices to enhance EPR and DRR capacity to build the resilience of children, families, communities, and governments. Particularly, EAPRO will strive to improve the connectivity between development programmes and humanitarian action in policy, planning and implementation. EAPRO will also support country offices to improve the quality of their emergency preparedness planning and conduct trainings and simulation exercises at country and field level.

Finally, EAPRO will also continue to strengthen technical cooperation partnerships with regional or sub-regional partners and coordination platforms. The collaboration with the ASEAN Humanitarian Assistance Centre on training and capacity building for National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA) officials from ASEAN countries will be continued and strengthened. In Viet Nam, EAPRO and the Viet Nam country office will facilitate a five-day training in May 2022 with the Viet Nam Disaster Management Authority (VDMA) on child-inclusive humanitarian action. This training had previously been postponed several times due to COVID-19.

## 10. Annex A – Specific Contributions to UNICEF Thailand

### Overview

Since April 2021, Thailand has been grappling with successive waves of COVID-19 and the resulting surge of new infections. The increased rate of infections severely constrained the Government's response efforts, with healthcare facilities experiencing a very high burden of COVID-19 cases. Lockdown measures put in place to stop the spread and lessen the effects of COVID-19 triggered an end to face to face contacts, affected learning for over 13 million children and adolescents.

The ongoing COVID-19 crisis has also hit vulnerable populations and migrant communities in Thailand, and children in particular, very hard. The number of positive cases of COVID-19 has been consistently high in areas where concentrations of migrant and low-income workers and their families can be found in rural low-income communities, in factories, construction worker camps, crowded communities/urban slums, and in markets in and around Bangkok and other major cities. Misinformation on the spread of COVID-19 is believed to have exacerbated xenophobia and discrimination which low-income and migrant children and their families often face. Mental health challenges, triggered by isolation and economic stress, have also become an increasing concern among children and young people.

### Results

#### **Greater resilience to the 'new normal'**

For greater resilience against the impact of the COVID-19 outbreaks, UNICEF swiftly distributed 550 oxygens concentrators to the Ministry of Public Health along with 600 cold boxes, 1000 vaccine carriers, 1000 Log Tags (Temperature Humidity Monitoring devices) to support cold chain equipment management capacity in 77 Provincial Public Health authorities.

More than 630,108 items of hygiene supplies and learning materials reached 305,767 vulnerable people (164,016 children and 141,751 adults which includes 4,608 migrants and 533 children with disabilities) in affected communities.

10,655 children under five years of age from extremely poor households, urban slums, and migrant families reached with play-based learning materials, Magic Box, which are critical to support children's creativity, self-confidence, communication skills, and cognitive functioning, especially in highly stressful situations such as the COVID-19 crisis.

22,196,883 children and adults were reached with Facebook posts, press releases, public service announcements, podcasts, and other Social media platforms produced by UNICEF staff and volunteers provided critical information on sanitation, social distancing, and other life-saving information. Additional 333,843 children and adults were reached with preventive messages and informational booklets on COVID-19 about the importance of social distancing.

UNICEF developed and distributed 86,501 home isolation booklets in Thai, Khmer and Myanmar language reaching more than 180,000 people.

Support was provided to the International Health Policy Programme (IHPP) to conduct a "Study on Impact of Infodemics related to COVID-19 Vaccine and other Factors on Vaccine Acceptance among the Thai population" (March – September). The study – and subsequent policy brief - with insights on

factors associated with willingness to be vaccinated and vaccine hesitancy, the vaccine rollout. To shed light on the impact of COVID-19 on the performance and outcomes of education system in Thailand, UNICEF supported the development of a Thailand Education Situation Analysis and led a research symposium on global lessons learned and an international virtual conference on role of teachers (40,000 national and 1,500 international participants).

During closures of ECD centres, 650,000 children continued to benefit from home delivered-school lunches following UNICEF's successful 2020 advocacy. Building on a 2020 analysis of the minimum nutrition standard for school lunch programme, UNICEF, in collaboration with the Parliament Budget Office and the Budget Scrutinization Committee, recommended an increase in allocation for the school lunch programme. Strategic partnerships and advocacy efforts played a critical role in having the Cabinet approving the proposal by Ministry of Education to increase the budget for school lunch programme by 5 per cent in 2021.

To mitigate the impact of ECD centre disruptions, UNICEF engaged 43,716 parents and caregivers through the Early Moment Matters on Mobile (EMMM), and 10,655 children under five years of age from extremely poor households, urban slums, and migrant families with play-based learning materials (Magic Box). In addition, nearly 10,000 linguistic minority and migrant children benefitted from direct learning support during school disruptions. Almost 75,000 children interacted through creative online foundational reading activities. With the Equitable Education Fund, UNICEF prioritised education recovery and launched a pilot project to better understand and mitigate learning loss through accelerated and remedial learning in affected provinces. Advocacy for school safety and prioritisation of vaccination of teachers was instrumental in the re-opening of 95 per cent of schools nationwide.

UNICEF also supported the provision of Psychosocial First Aid (PFA) to 3,927 children and helped introduce the Child Protection and Health Case Management for 1,690 vulnerable children. Children left without parental care due to COVID-19 were supported with an interim grant for kinship care and foster families and COVID-19 self-testing kits thanks to UNICEF's advocacy and technical support to Department of Children and Youth (DCY) to develop COVID-19 child protection guidelines for the prevention of family separation and guidelines and tools for Child Protection in Emergencies for frontline workers.

UNICEF also worked with the Department of Juvenile Observation (DJOP) of the Ministry of Justice on the development of guidelines on the care and protection of children in DJOP institutions in the context of COVID-19, focusing on the organisation's contingency plan and protocol in dealing with newly infection cases and in coordinating with health services, as well as the development of COVID-19 related Risk Communication and Community Engagement materials for children and care takers in the institutions.

UNICEF also cooperated with the Ministry of Labour to support children and families locked down in construction camps during the third wave of COVID-19 and a draft public-facing report explaining how existing tax incentive measures can be applied to promote pro-child rights practice was developed.

For the first time, the total of 47 "I AM UNICEF" volunteers were mobilised to help in direct COVID-19 response such as packing critical emergency hygiene and education supplies in urban poor communities in Bangkok during the third wave of the pandemic. The volunteer programme allowed flexibility in mobilising urgently needed human resources for COVID-19 response as well as a meaningful supporter engagement and audience outreach through social media stories. Volunteer



programme shows a great potential for the wider supporter engagement, especially with the next generation of supporters and donors.

### **Enhanced emergency preparedness**

In February 2021, the Myanmar military seized power from the civilian government in the country leading to widespread civil unrest. The Thai Government prepared for a possible cross-border influx of migrants, and UNICEF raised the level of preparedness for a possible humanitarian situation. Thailand is home to over 200,000 stateless children without their fundamental right nationality and legal identity.

To manage implications of the politically charged situation in Myanmar for cross-border influx of refugees, UNICEF raised the level of preparedness activating partnerships with Save the Children, Help Without Frontiers, Terre des Hommes, One Sky Foundation and Diocesan Social Action Center for preparedness and response focussing on Education, Child Protection and WASH in Chiang Mai, Chiang Rai, Mae Sot, Tak, Kanchanaburi, Mae Hong Son, Ratachaburi, Ranong, Prachuabkirikhan and Chumporn provinces.

In particular, the partnership with Save the Children helped ensure preparedness, monitoring, and coordination of humanitarian response. This entailed developing and making available minimum standards for Home-Based Learning (HBL) and parenting sessions in Burmese and Karen and to set up temporary learning spaces as well as standby capacity-building of 90 civil society staff in child safeguarding, education in emergencies (EiE), and using the HBL kit.

UNICEF is in close communication with UNHCR, and other cluster leads are monitoring the situation. UNICEF also provided technical support on nutrition of children under 2 years of age for which risk communication, community engagement (RCCE) materials in Burmese language were developed with support from UNICEF East Asia and Pacific Regional Office.

UNICEF Thailand is working with the generous support of institutional, corporate, and individual donors to support children, young people, and families affected by humanitarian crises. This support is more important than ever as together we seek to build a brighter future for the children and young people of Thailand, despite these difficult times. We would like to thank

- USAID
- Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration, US Department of State
- The Government of Japan

## 11. Annex B – Human Interest Stories

UNICEF Timor-Leste, *Young people at the forefront of flood-recovery efforts in Timor-Leste*  
<https://www.unicef.org/timorleste/stories/young-people-forefront-flood-recovery-efforts-timor-leste>

UNICEF Cambodia, *Protecting children in Cambodia's COVID "red zones"*,  
<https://www.unicef.org/cambodia/stories/protecting-children-cambodias-covid-red-zones>

UNICEF Indonesia, *Back to School in the Pandemic*,  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A9V4GGfh18s&t=13s>

UNICEF Philippines, *Reaching the Unreached: Super Typhoon Odette WASH Emergency Response in Caraga*, <https://www.unicef.org/philippines/stories/reaching-unreached-super-typhoon-odette-wash-emergency-response-caraga>

## 12. Annex C – Donor Feedback Form

The donor feedback form can be accessed through the following link:

- [UNICEF Donor Feedback Form](#)