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Reporting Period: 1 July – 30 September 2021

East Asia and Pacific Region

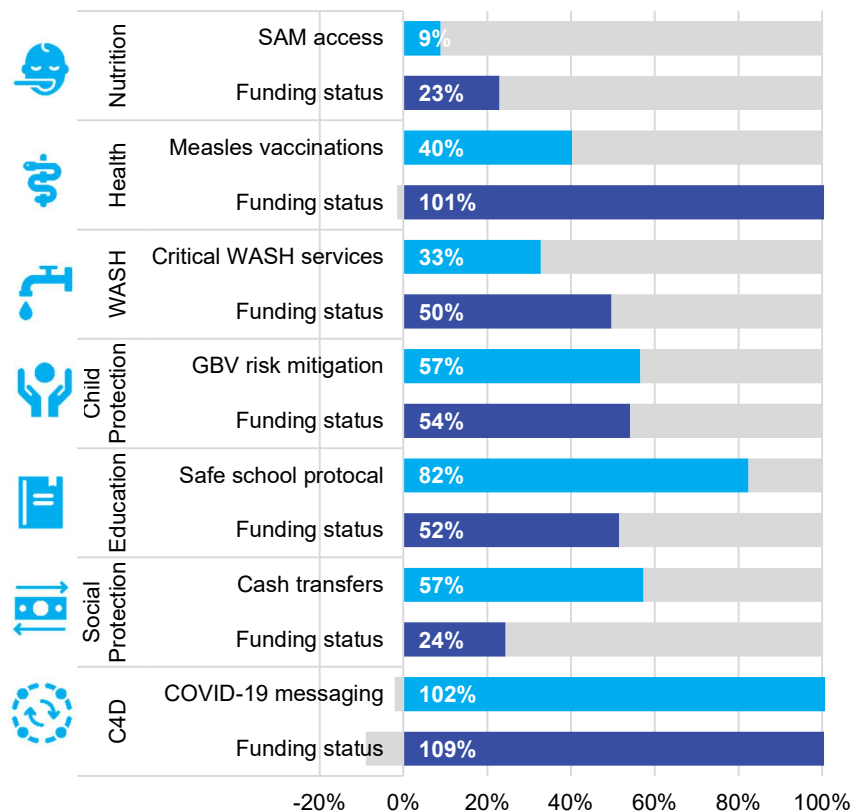
Humanitarian Situation Report No. 3

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Highlights

- Cases of COVID-19 continue to rise sharply in East Asia and the Pacific. In total, 12.8 million positive cases and 274,923 deaths have been confirmed in the region, with Indonesia (4.2 million cases), Philippines (2.6 million cases), Malaysia (2.3 million cases) and Thailand (1.6 million cases) being the most affected.
- A combined approach of supporting vaccine roll-out while continuing to focus on efforts to contain the spread of the virus and respond to the social-economic impacts of the pandemic is needed in order to save lives and alleviate suffering, especially for children.
- An estimated 1.7 million children in the region are affected by severe wasting - this is expected to increase an average of 14 per cent from 2020 through 2022 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- UNICEF has provided 16.5 million children and adolescents with messages on healthy diets.
- UNICEF has also supported 176,327 schools to implement safe school protocols and 32.2 million children with access to formal or non-formal education, including early learning.

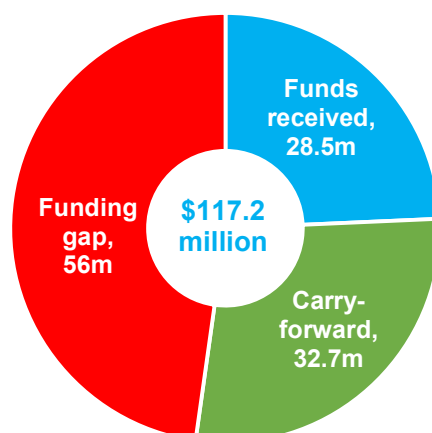
UNICEF's Funding Status



Situation in Numbers

-  **12.8 million** confirmed COVID-19 cases and **274,923** deaths
-  **500,000** additional children have SAM due to COVID-19
-  **6.9 million** children are not immunized against measles
-  **369 million** people lack access to basic hygiene services
-  **144 million** children/adolescents lack access to education

Funding Status Regional 2021 HAC (US\$)



Regional Funding Overview

In 2021, UNICEF is appealing for US\$117.2 million to meet the humanitarian needs of children, adolescents and women affected by emergencies, including chronic, protracted humanitarian situations as well as UNICEF's response to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic in the East Asia and Pacific (EAP) region. So far, **a total of US\$ 61.2 million¹** has been received against the 2021 EAP HAC (including US\$32.7 million carried-over from 2020 and US\$28.5 million received in 2021) from donors, including the Governments of Australia, Canada, China, Denmark, Ireland, Japan, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, Sweden, United Kingdom, United States of America, European Commission, Asian Development Bank, World Bank, CERF, Global Partnership for Education, Gavi, Solidarity Fund, United Nations Office for South South Cooperation, several private donors and UNICEF committees in Australia, Belgium, France, Hong Kong, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, Philippines, Singapore, Switzerland, Thailand, and the USA. UNICEF is currently in discussion with several public and private donors to raise funding for the US\$56 million shortfall for the EAP regional response. UNICEF acknowledges the generous contribution of donors including private sectors supporting this joint effort to respond and mitigate the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and other emergencies in the EAP region. Please refer to Annex B and Annex C for more detailed information on funding per functional area and country.

In addition, UNICEF has also received **US\$93.1 million for COVID-19 vaccine roll-out in East Asia and Pacific** for 2021 in response to the Humanitarian Action for Children (HAC) Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator (ACT-A) / COVAX appeal. The ACT-A / COVAX HAC appeal which was launched and is managed globally complements the EAP Regional HAC appeal by supporting country readiness for COVID-19 vaccine roll out, together with WHO and Gavi, while supporting the strengthening of health systems. This includes providing commodities needed for safe vaccine administration, such as cold chain equipment, personal protective equipment (PPE), and hand hygiene (soap and hand sanitizer), operational costs for vaccine delivery and associated technical assistance. Crucially, this also includes support for vaccine delivery to humanitarian populations. The seven support areas are in alignment with the categories of National Deployment and Vaccination Plans and include: planning and coordination, prioritization and targeting, service delivery, training, monitoring and evaluation, vaccine cold-chain and logistics, communication and community engagement. Funding and results from the ACT-A / COVAX HAC appeal are reported through a separate global [ACT-A situation report](#).

Regional Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

The number of confirmed cases and deaths from COVID-19 in EAP continued to rise sharply over the past three months. Since the beginning of the pandemic, 12.8 million positive cases and 274,923 deaths have been confirmed in the region, with Indonesia (4.2 million cases), Philippines (2.6 million cases), Malaysia (2.3 million cases) and Thailand (1.6 million cases) being the most affected.² Countries across the region continue racing to vaccinate their populations against COVID-19; however, the pandemic and related control measures continue to disrupt essential health, nutrition, and social services and to drive steep declines in household incomes. A combined approach of supporting vaccine roll-out while continuing to focus on efforts to contain the spread of the virus and respond to the social-economic impacts of the pandemic is needed in order to save lives and alleviate suffering, especially for children.

The COVID-19 pandemic has the potential to increase all forms of malnutrition for young children, but the most imminent concern is its impact on life-threatening wasting, particularly amongst the poorest children, who face an even greater struggle to access nutritious and affordable foods and required nutrition services. An estimated 1.7 million children in EAP are affected by severe wasting - the most life-threatening form of malnutrition.³ And this is expected to increase an average of 14 per cent from 2020 through 2022 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.⁴

The COVID-19 pandemic has also exposed the weaknesses in systems delivering water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) in many contexts. Across the region, 89 million people do not have basic handwashing facilities with soap and water at home.⁵ At the beginning of the pandemic, three out of 10 households in East Asia and Pacific region did not have a dedicated place for washing hands with soap and water.⁶ More than half of the schools in the region did not have hand-washing facilities with soap and water available to students,⁷ and more than six out of 10 health care facilities in EAP lacked functional handwashing facilities with soap and water or hand sanitizer.⁸ As a result of the pandemic, millions of people had disrupted access to life-saving water and sanitation services as service providers struggled with staff health and safety concerns and financial difficulties.

Meanwhile, in the face of continuing high cases of COVID-19 spread through the delta variant, many countries in EAP have only partially reopened schools. Schools are partially open in Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Mongolia,

¹ UNICEF also received several multi-year contributions which go beyond the duration of the HAC. The total amount received including carry-forward from 2020 and new multi-year grants for 2022/2023 is **US\$ 68.3 million**.

² WHO, <https://covid19.who.int/table>

³ UNICEF, WHO, World Bank Group. Joint malnutrition estimates, 2021 edition. 2021. <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/jme-2020-edition> (accessed May 25, 2021)

⁴ Headey D, Heidkamp R, Osendarp S, Ruel M, Scott N, Black RE, Bouis H, Flory A, Haddad L, Walker N. Impacts of COVID-19 on childhood malnutrition and nutrition-related mortality. Lancet 2020; published online July 27. [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(20\)31647-0](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(20)31647-0)

⁵ WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for water supply sanitation and hygiene. Regional estimates exclude China, for which no nationally representative data are available

⁶ Regional estimates exclude China, for which no nationally representative data are available for households and schools

⁷ Excludes China

⁸ Excludes China

Thailand, Timor-Leste and Viet Nam, while schools have remained fully closed in Fiji and the Philippines. Emerging evidence indicates increasing dropouts and learning loss due to the recurring and prolonged school closures combined with distance learning programmes not being on par with face-to-face teaching and learning. Schools in the Philippines (hosting 24.9m children) have remained closed since end of March 2020, making it one of the last countries globally with schools continuously closed for face-to-face learning. Partly thanks to UNICEF Philippines Country Office advocacy, the government is now planning to reopen a small number of schools in low-risk areas as a pilot. UNICEF is providing technical assistance to the government on the pilot school reopening in the hope of wider school reopening following the initial pilot. UNICEF is also supporting the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in developing comprehensive guidance for the safe reopening and operation of schools.

As a result of school closures and economic shocks caused by COVID-19, the latest report on child labour ([UNICEF/ILO](#)) estimates that globally 9 million additional children are at risk of being pushed into child labour by the end of 2022. In EAP, 50,200 children are involved in child labour, accounting for one in every 16 children in the region, and 42 per cent of them are in hazardous work putting them at risk of physical and mental harm. Indonesia's Minister of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection has [warned](#) that the ongoing COVID-19 outbreak has increased the risk of children being pushed into child labour. Meanwhile, a regional survey on climate change and child protection in emergencies was carried out in Southeast Asia as part of a global joint initiative between IFRC and UNICEF. The survey reached 29,133 children and youth aged between 10 and 25 years. The findings suggest that climate change related disasters are a threat multiplier, elevating the potential risk of violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect against children. The findings informed a recently released IFRC [policy brief](#) on anticipatory action and child protection.

The pandemic is also exacerbating the vulnerability of families to natural hazards, such as typhoons and floods, and protracted humanitarian situations due to unresolved conflict and political instability. This situation in Myanmar continues to deteriorate as the country falls deeper into a situation of armed conflict and targeted violence, pushing a growing number of children into a situation of humanitarian needs. Further details on the situation in Myanmar and UNICEF's response can be found in a separate [situation report](#) dedicated to the Myanmar 2021 HAC appeal.

Regional Humanitarian Strategy, Partnerships and Coordination

To respond to shocks and stresses amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, UNICEF focuses on enhancing the emergency preparedness and response capabilities of country offices, government counterparts and partners by establishing adequate preparedness measures and providing technical expertise and strengthening systems for child-sensitive and inclusive humanitarian action. UNICEF also strengthens risk-informed programming to address both the immediate and longer-term impacts of crises. This includes sustaining the delivery of life-saving interventions in chronic protracted humanitarian situations by providing basic and essential humanitarian supplies in line with global standards; strengthening the timely and effective delivery of essential health, nutrition and WASH services, especially for the most vulnerable children under five years and pregnant and lactating women; and building the capacities of local service providers and caregivers. This also includes analysing multi-dimensional risks and threats to children; integrating disaster risk reduction and climate change strategies into development plans; and building inclusive shock-responsive social protection systems.

UNICEF also strengthens the integration of cross-sectoral efforts to address the needs of children with disabilities, adolescents, women and girls in humanitarian settings, focusing on gender-based violence services, accountability to affected populations and the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse in emergencies. To ensure greater predictability and accountability in humanitarian settings and learn from previous emergencies, including the COVID-19 response, UNICEF expands knowledge management efforts and advances humanitarian innovations.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, UNICEF continues to support governments and communities to control the spread of the virus and minimize morbidity and mortality, including by enhancing preparedness for the possible second and third waves of COVID-19. In addition, UNICEF addresses the socio-economic impacts of the pandemic in the region by restoring children's mental and physical well-being in the areas of health, nutrition, WASH, child protection, education and social protection, focusing on the most vulnerable. This is done in line with the concept of 'building back better' to ensure clear linkages between the humanitarian response and longer-term development efforts.

At the regional and country levels, UNICEF is coordinating efforts to reduce transmission and mitigate the impacts of COVID-19 with national authorities, UN and partners, including WHO, IFRC, national Centres for Diseases Control, NGOs, community-based organisations and the private sector. To assess the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19 on children and women, UNICEF is coordinating with multiple agencies at the regional and national level. With the support of UNICEF's EAP regional office, country offices developed a regional response plan aligned with the WHO COVID-19 Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan, the UN Global Humanitarian Response Plan as well as the UN Framework for the Immediate Socio-economic response to COVID-19.

Summary of UNICEF's Response Actions in the Region:

The following response actions are in relation to the EAP 2021 HAC appeal which includes UNICEF's response in Cambodia, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Mongolia, the Pacific (Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu), Papua New Guinea (PNG), Philippines, Thailand, Timor-Leste and Viet Nam. Results from UNICEF's response to the situation in Myanmar and the COVID-19 vaccine roll-out across the region are reported under dedicated situation reports.

Nutrition

UNICEF is supporting governments to provide life-saving nutrition interventions in response to the pandemic and other emergencies. During the reporting period, UNICEF provided an additional **13,793 children aged 6 to 59 months** with treatment for severe acute malnutrition (only 5 per cent of targeted children) and an additional **6.5 million children and adolescents** with messages on healthy diets.

- In **Cambodia**, UNICEF has included nutrition messages and materials to promote healthy diets into the Ministry of Education's home-learning package (HLP) for 760,000 students in grades 1 and 2 nationwide.
- In **Mongolia**, during the reporting period, UNICEF assisted 41,205 children under two years and 25,118 pregnant and lactating women with improved access to nutrition services. This helped the screening of 19,708 children under five, treatment of 164 children with severe and moderate acute malnutrition and strengthened infant and child feeding and care practices for parents with children under two, as well as pregnant and lactating women.
- In **Samoa**, 200 health workers trained on screening and management of severe acute malnutrition (SAM). SAM screening will be integrated with Vitamin A supplementation and deworming.
- In **Indonesia**, UNICEF continued to make efforts to strengthen the capacity of subnational government and key stakeholders in delivering quality essential nutrition services to mothers and caregivers of infants and young children and adolescents. Notably, by September, 11,395 subnational government representatives and other stakeholders were trained on various nutrition topics including adolescent nutrition, nutrition in emergency, maternal nutrition, and infant and young child feeding through online platforms.
- Five countries in EAP (**Cambodia, Indonesia, Philippines, PNG, and Timor-Leste**) have finalized their [national roadmaps](#) for scaling up prevention and treatment of child wasting in line with the [global initiative](#) (the GAP) to reduce wasting in children. Additionally, these countries have launched advocacy efforts with their respective government to end malnutrition in all its forms and ensure that all people have access to safe and nutritious diets. UNICEF Country Offices have supported governments in conducting a series of Food Systems Summit (FSS) dialogues and registering their nutrition commitments for the [Nutrition for Growth \(N4G\) summit compact](#). The N4G summit will be held in Tokyo, Japan, on 7 and 8 December 2021.

Health

UNICEF is supporting governments and communities to control the spread of the COVID-19 and restore essential health services from the impact of the pandemic and other emergencies, in order to minimize morbidity and mortality. During the reporting period, UNICEF provided access to primary health care for an additional **1 million children and women** and vaccinated an additional **479,299 children** against measles.

- In **Cambodia**, in the five north-eastern provinces, UNICEF continued to provide technical support to strengthen Infection, Prevention, and Control (IPC) in the context of COVID-19, and risk communication and community engagement (RCCE), particularly in hard-to-reach areas. During the reporting period, 525 health promotion and education sessions were conducted, reaching 62,794 villagers. During the sessions, hygiene, sanitation, and COVID-19 prevention were promoted through community health promotion sessions, mobile loudspeakers, or outreach sessions.
- In **DPRK**, border closures continue to restrict the implementation of the health programme with health supplies and commodities stuck at the border and in various supplier warehouses in India, Copenhagen, and China. The country has been stocked out of OPV vaccines since October 2020 and more recently in May 2021, stockouts have also been experienced for all EPI antigens at central level. Adult TB drugs, TB diagnostics and malaria insecticides are also currently out of stock. These stock outs create an imminent risk of outbreaks of vaccine preventable diseases, drug resistant tuberculosis and malaria if the situation remains unchanged. As of June 2021, immunization coverage has dipped, with no children receiving vaccination against polio in 2021 and coverage of measles and pentavalent vaccines has dipped from the 2020 Q2 coverages of 98.4 and 97.5 per cent respectively to 68 per cent. Due to continued border closures, internationally recruited personnel are unable to enter the country which has effectively suspended planned capacity building and activities requiring onsite international technical assistance. Programme assurance and monitoring continues to pose a challenge as field monitoring visits have been suspended since January 2020.
- In **Mongolia**, procurement of the essential medical equipment in support of maternal and child health services (such as resuscitation table for the new-born, incubators, midwifery kits) worth US\$830,000 have been completed. The medical equipment and kits are expected for arrival in October-November 2021. Distribution plan to be approved includes all 21 provinces, Ulaanbaatar and national level maternity hospitals (26 facilities).
- In the **Pacific**, 31 oxygen concentrators delivered and distributed to health facilities in **Samoa**; 34 health facilities supplied with PPE in **Kiribati**; while consumables (including 4,000 testing swabs; 4,000 GeneXpert test kits; 8,600 gowns; 4,000,000 surgical masks; 300 body bags) were procured in **Fiji**, with delivery expected in October.

WASH

UNICEF is supporting governments, health workers, schools and communities to promote hygiene and ensure children and their families essential WASH services and supplies, including handwashing with soap and essential personal hygiene practices and menstrual supplies for women and girls. During the reporting period, UNICEF provided an additional **299,453 people** with critical water, sanitation and hygiene supplies (including hygiene items) and services. UNICEF also provided **135,063 people** with access to appropriately designed hygiene and sanitation facilities.

- In **Cambodia**, support was provided on hygiene-related IPC at borders and other provinces where COVID-19 was detected amongst returning migrant workers from Thailand. A total of 19,826 people (including 9,050 females and 697 children) received cleaning and hygiene supplies with UNICEF support in 108 quarantine/treatment sites in 8 provinces of Battambang, Banteay Meanchey, Odor Meanchey, Pailin, Siem Reap, Rattanakiri, Kratie, and Svay Rieng.
- In **Lao PDR**, handwashing facilities have been constructed for 580 schools most at risk from COVID-19 (high population and border areas); however, travel constraints have prevented the installation in schools. These facilities are due to be installed in schools in preparation for the safe return to schools as lockdowns ease.
- In **Malaysia**, UNICEF has expanded its support in Sabah: UNICEF is currently planning to distribute hygiene kits to 20,000 children and their families/caregivers in Sabah rural areas and underserved urban communities. The provision of hygiene kits in Sabah will include capacity building activities with NGOs, community leaders, learning centres, and communities in general to increase their understanding on the importance of hygiene practices to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 and practice proper way to use hygiene items. Activities are expected to commence in late October.
- In **Mongolia**, with the government's decision to re-open the schools on 1 September, UNICEF focused on the safe re-opening practice at the schools and kindergartens. With UNICEF technical support, the Ministry of Education and Science organized a nationwide online training workshop on "Temporary protocols for safe re-opening of school and kindergartens" for 6,121 teachers, principals, and social workers of kindergartens to ensure COVID-19 infection prevention and control measures. Disinfectants were provided to schools and kindergartens of Bayankhongor, Gobi-Altai, and Zavkhan provinces reaching 38,000 children. Essential personal protective hygiene supply items, such as hand sanitizer, disposable gloves and face masks, were also provided to 7,284 graduate students during the high education (university) entrance exams at schools of Bayankhongor, Gobi-Altai and Zavkhan provinces.
- In **Kiribati**, 83 handwashing stations were installed in 22 schools (12 primary, 7 junior secondary, 3 senior secondary) on South Tarawa, benefiting 15,440 children (8,320 girls, 7,120 boys). In addition, 13 foot-operated handwashing stations have been installed in 13 out of 15 health care facilities on South Tarawa, to strengthen handwashing behaviour for medical staff and patients. Plans are in place to install an additional two stations in the remaining two facilities to allow for full coverage of all facilities on South Tarawa.
- In **PNG**, 26 communities in the Rigo district have achieved an 'Open Defecation Free' status following the construction of proper and safe toilets for each household with tippy taps and soap for handwashing. This intervention positively impacts more than 5,240 people who live in these communities as part of COVID-19 response support from the Government of Japan.

Child Protection, GBVIE and PSEA

UNICEF is working with implementing partners to strengthen mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) for children and adolescents, including dedicated child-friendly helplines for children. UNICEF continues to provide technical leadership and support in child protection sector coordination, ensures continuity of child protection services during COVID-19, and strengthens child protection in emergencies, gender-based violence in emergencies (GBVIE), and prevention of sexual abuse and exploitation (PSEA) measures to better protect children and women. During the reporting period, UNICEF supported an additional **77,547 children and caregivers** in accessing mental health and psychosocial support and an additional **30,593 women, girls and boys** in accessing gender-based violence risk mitigation, prevention or response interventions. UNICEF also helped reunify and additional **1,509 unaccompanied and separated children** with their primary caregiver or provided the children with family-based care/alternative care services.

- In **Cambodia**, UNICEF established a direct partnership with Child Helpline Cambodia (CHC) in May 2021 to provide online counselling, including on MHPSS, and to facilitate referral to specialized child protection services. For the reporting period, 1,731 children and 686 adults received mental health messages from CHC counsellors, while 151 children (94 females and two children with disabilities) and 160 adults (81 females and three people with disabilities) received counselling services. Additionally, 13 children and nine adults were referred for specialized services by the partner.
- In **Indonesia**, UNICEF and implementing partners reached 48,543 people with access to MHPSS information and services. Of this total, 11,355 people, including 10,956 children (5,692 girls, 5,264 boys) and 399 adults (295 female, 104 male) received MHPSS information through social media while 1,365 children (931 girls; 434 boys) and 42 (35 female, 7 male) engaged in interactive online webinars on MHPSS with trained psychologists.
- In **Mongolia**, with the increasing number of COVID-affected children, MHPSS needs have increased. As a response, 1,800 children who were hospitalized or isolated due to the infection were provided with MHPSS through our partners including the national and local Authorities for Family, Child, and Youth Development (AFCYD) and Mongolian Red Cross Society (MRCS).
- In the **Philippines**, a milestone was reached when the Armed Force of the Philippines (AFP) and the United Nations signed a strategic plan to protect children affected by conflict in the country. Under the agreement, the AFP pledged to prevent, end and respond to grave violations of children's rights. To respond to the needs of children and their families displaced by the armed conflict in Maguindanao which erupted in March 2021, UNICEF and CSO partner (CFSI) implemented community based MHPSS activities with IPC considerations for emergencies. The interventions include setting up of 18 child friendly spaces (CFS); psychosocial support activities for 6,307 children and caregivers; training and mobilization of 80 CFS volunteers and mobile youth animators; and mobilization of religious leaders on dissemination of child protection and COVID-19 key messages and orientation for 3,127

children, caregivers and community members on child protection, gender-based violence risk mitigation, prevention and response, PSEA and COVID-19.

- In **PNG**, in partnership with ChildFund, UNICEF supports the PNG 1 Tok-Kaunselin Helpline to provide critical, free and confidential counselling and case management services to children, adolescents and women at risk of violence and abuse and other distress caused by COVID-19. 77 children aged 5 to 17 years (30 males, 47 females) were supported with mental health and psychosocial support and other referral services, such as police, family support centres and legal services during the reporting period. UNICEF's support to Child-Fund also includes providing an "Emergency fund" for children who face urgent risks to their safety. 22 children (14 females, six males, and two unspecified) were supported through this fund.
- In **Solomon Islands**, UNICEF in collaboration with World Bank is supporting a High Frequency Phone Monitoring Survey (HFPM) to measure the impact of COVID-19 on women and children. The second round of data collection was completed in August 2021. Data analysis and report writing are underway.
- In **Thailand**, UNICEF Thailand continued to support the Department of Children and Youth to support kinship and foster families who volunteer to take care of children, either orphaned or separated because of COVID. The support covers an estimate of 300 families for the next three months. This support is also the opportunity to accelerate the country's reform of family-alternative based care.
- In **Timor-Leste**, UNICEF developed the MHPSS toolbox, that includes a guideline with different activities for children in vulnerable and emergency settings including COVID-19, a training of trainer's module, recreational materials to develop the activities (MHPSS backpack) and complementary material such as referral pathways, Code of Conduct, Child Safeguarding and PSEA module. 89 volunteers have been trained in partnership with 10 NGO and the Ministry of Social Solidarity, and the activities were in the CFS of the IDP camps and in the surrounding communities.
- In **Viet Nam**, UNICEF is supporting the Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs (MOLISA) to improve guidelines on quarantining children and developed video-clips on child safeguarding and psycho-social support for children in quarantine during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Education

UNICEF is supporting governments to ensure the continuity of learning through safe and inclusive school operations. During the reporting period, UNICEF supported an additional **42,148 schools** to implement safe school protocols and an additional **324,523 children** with access to formal or non-formal education, including early learning. UNICEF also supported an additional **5,950 children with disabilities** with access to learning.

- In **Cambodia**, UNICEF has continued the preparation of the home-learning packages to 760,000 grade 1 and 2 public school students, with the first distribution at the end of September. A package has also been developed for minority language students in four provinces, supporting 5,000 G1-G3 children to strengthen reading skills in their own language. Even with school reopening, these paper-based materials remain valuable, as they are designed to be complementary to regular school materials.
- In **Lao, PDR**, to support continuity of learning, since late April 2021 the trialling of the [Khang Panya Lao](#) (Lao Wisdom Warehouse digital learning platform) was scaled-up. UNICEF supported setting up the platform based on the Learning Passport. During the reporting period, UNICEF focused on reaching more students, parents and teachers with Khang Panya Lao. By the end of September, approximately 33,000 users (47 per cent female) were registered to the platform (one user can have 2-3 children hence pass on rate would be higher).
- In **Malaysia**, UNICEF is strengthening teacher capacity through Massive Online Open Course (MOOC)/Teacher Digital Learning Community via MOE Google Classroom platform with MOE and Arus: <https://sites.google.com/moe-dl.edu.my/ldp-digital-learning/home> (with accessibility features for learners and teachers with disabilities) to maintain continuity of student learning on the MOE digital learning platform (DELIMa) - also available to teachers from refugee schools and alternative learning centres. Content includes a resource bank of over 1,570 resources in 25 different formats and have been accessed over 104,329 times by teachers: <https://sites.google.com/moe-dl.edu.my/banksumberkgdl/laman-utama?authuser=5>.
- In the **Philippines**, in BARMM, UNICEF supported the development and piloting of School Readiness Assessment, which includes WASH in Schools indicators/criteria to determine schools' readiness to open in the upcoming school year. A total of 2,173 schools have participated in the submission of school readiness data through the online platform. With support from UNICEF Technology for Development (T4D), the dashboard and online tool for monitoring progress and analysing school readiness is the same as that of the Department of Education and reflects schools that are ready, partially ready and not ready, under different COVID-19 risk classifications as identified by Department of Health.
- In **Viet Nam**, UNICEF continues to support Ministry of Education and Training (MOET) in monitoring and addressing the impacts of COVID-19 on learning and well-being of students in 2021. UNICEF-supported safe school protocols continue to be implemented and operationalized as Viet Nam experienced its third and fourth of COVID-19 in 2021. As the new academic year starts, many students are moving to online learning. UNICEF is supporting the MOET in ensuring the continuity of learning during lockdown by procuring and distributing digital devices to 1,500 children, prioritizing those who are severely impacted by COVID-19. UNICEF is also carrying out "Back to School" campaign to encourage the continuity of learning during the lockdown.

Social Protection and Cash Transfers

UNICEF has stepped up its technical support on social protection for a timely response to mitigate the economic impact of the new COVID-19 waves on the most vulnerable groups. With UNICEF technical support, several countries have maintained (e.g. Mongolia or Indonesia) and even expanded (e.g. Cambodia) previous social protection emergencies measures. Others, like Thailand, have advocated for design tweaks to account for the additional “burden of care” for families with children. UNICEF continues with policy advocacy efforts to ensure any future relief measures will consider the socio-economic impacts faced by families with children. Routine social protection programmes have been also hampered by new lockdowns. In Lao PDR for example, movement restrictions across the country made necessary a remote identification and enrolment of beneficiaries of the new Maternal and Early Childhood Grant.

During the reporting period, UNICEF provided technical assistance and advocacy to governments, which benefited over **4.2 million households** who received new or additional cash transfers.

- In **Cambodia**, UNICEF has continued to support delivery and monitoring of the COVID-19 Cash Transfer for the Poor and Vulnerable currently including 738,427 IDPoor households (a poverty identification programme in Cambodia) and 105,385 households with persons with disability (PwD). While continuing to advocate for the extension of the COVID-19 Cash Transfer Programme into 2022, UNICEF is supporting the development of the Family Package of integrated cash transfer programmes (covering children, PwD, and elderly) to be rolled out as a transition towards routine social protection delivery within the economic recovery process.
- In **Indonesia**, UNICEF continues to support the government in developing guidelines to increase coverage and benefits of unconditional cash transfers of a poverty-focused child grant programme during COVID-19.
- In **Lao PDR**, using a remote kick-off strategy 1,100 pregnant women and children in Sanamxay were registered, with over 90 per cent receiving the first tranche of 300,000 Kip between August and September. The benefits were doubled, from 150,000 Kip to enable the household to cushion the social and economic impact of the COVID prevention measures.

C4D, Community Engagement and AAP

UNICEF is providing accurate life-saving information on COVID-19 through communication for development (C4D) and community engagement. UNICEF is also engaged with beneficiaries to ensure accountability to affected populations (AAP) through the seven pillars of [UNICEF's AAP Framework](#), which include: participation, information and communication, feedback and complaints, protection from sexual exploitation and abuse, strengthening local capacity, evidence-based advocacy and decision-making, and coordination and participation. The Regional Office has recruited a regional AAP consultant to help operationalize the AAP component of its ongoing response across the region. During the reporting period, **UNICEF reached 302 million people** through messaging on key life-saving behaviours and access to services.

- In **Indonesia**, on the World Breastfeeding Week in August, UNICEF engaged in a nationwide social media breastfeeding promotion campaign, reaching more than 50 million people across the country with key messages on the safety of COVID vaccination during pregnancy and the importance of continued breastfeeding in the context of COVID-19.
- In **Mongolia**, UNICEF continued its communication and C4D support to the Government by carrying out “Safe Summer-Safe School” RCCE campaign targeting children and parents for three months. The campaign reached a total of over 800,000 people including children.
- In **Thailand**, UNICEF continued to support Raks Thai Foundation to strengthen efforts within migrant communities to prevent COVID-19. More than 8,000 community members and leaders were trained on COVID-19 prevention, in Samut Prakan and Samut Sakhon and seven other provinces. As home isolation increased significantly in the third wave, impacting both Thais and migrant worker population, UNICEF developed a home isolation booklet. A total of 20,000 copies were printed and distributed (10,000 in Myanmar, 7,000 in Thai and 3,000 in Cambodian language). In addition, the booklet was translated into Laotian language by IOM which will further expand its reach.
- In **Timor-Leste**, two perception surveys were conducted during the reporting period to understand perceptions on vaccine uptake, continued adherence to health protocols and seeking input on what additional information people need on vaccines. The level of vaccine acceptance has grown 56 per cent before the vaccine intro to 86 per cent.
- In **Viet Nam**, in responding to the flood/storm season in the context of COVID-19, UNICEF supported the Viet Nam Disaster Management Authority (VNDMA)/Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) to develop and disseminate five infographics, four video clips with sign language, and one booklet to provide knowledge and skills for parents, children and government staff on the prevention of natural disasters during the pandemic – ‘duel challenges’. https://drive.google.com/drive/u/0/folders/1_Vn736tLjYKkpYggOq72tnGpVWCd5TFM

Cross-cutting sectors, e.g. Early Childhood Development, Disability, Gender, Adolescent

UNICEF's response focuses on reaching the most vulnerable children and adolescents, including those living in low-income settings, children living with disabilities, migrant children and children of ethnic minorities.

- In **Indonesia**, UNICEF has been supporting skills development programmes to empower young people to become active citizens. This entails recruiting young people through an innovation challenge where they identify key issues they are facing in their communities. Selected adolescents are then supported to develop twenty-first century skills to refine their ideas and present prototypes with support from private sector and civil society mentors. The

programmes are now in the final phase whereby the 42 finalist teams (521 adolescents, 58 per cent female) are finalising their bootcamp and mentorship sessions to refine their solutions/ideas to the issues they had identified in their communities in the first phase. A total of ten teams will present to private sector and government partners later in mid-October 2021. The aim of this event is to showcase the results of the programme, to demonstrate how adolescents can apply the skills they have built in tangible ways and to promote public-private partnerships in the province. So far some of the solutions being refined include: an app for COVID-19 tracking, job matching service and consultancy services for female victims of violence.

- In **Lao PDR**, production of Season 2 of the special early childhood development (ECD) TV programme [My House](#) with 12 new episodes is in the final stages with an official launch planned for October 2021. My House promotes physical, cognitive, social and emotional development of children and engages family members to support young children's learning and development in a fun, interactive way. The show also integrates COVID-19 prevention messages. All episodes include sign language interpretation. Storybooks based on My House Season 1 have been developed and are being printed for dissemination to pre-schools, early childhood education centres and grades 1 and 2 classes across the country. Season 1 of My House with 10 episodes (with sign language) was released in 2020 and shown on several TV channels, shared online and is available on [Khang Panya Lao](#).
- In **Thailand**, the health digital platform for adolescent, www.lovecaresation.com, continues to provide online counseling services. A total of 1,445 young people (1,101 female, 325 male and 19 identified as others) received support during the reporting period and among these 280 cases were on mental health issue solely and nine individuals on bully and violence case. Of these 1,445 young people, 74 cases received active referrals for necessary medical services as well.

Internal and External Media

- The Bangkok Post, [Lack of schooling road to disaster](#), 11 Oct 2021
- The Manila Times, [Child immunization hobbled by pandemic](#), 11 Oct 2021
- The Star, [Vietnam eyes inoculating children against Covid-19 in late October with Pfizer, Cuban vaccines](#), 10 Oct 2021
- Business World, [UNICEF's move-a-thon for a cause ongoing](#), 10 Oct 2021
- The Star, [Covid-19 drives poor mental health among children and teenagers, says Unicef](#), 9 Oct 2021
- Borgen Magazine, [UNICEF Water Assistance in Papua New Guinea](#), 9 Oct 2021
- The Malaysian Reserve, [MCO affected children's mental health: Unicef Malaysia](#), 7 Oct 2021
- Khmer Times, [UNICEF warns of \\$390 billion impact of COVID-19 on mental health of children/young people in Cambodia and globally](#), 7 Oct 2021
- Tatoli, [MoEYS officially resumes face-to-face learning in schools across Dili](#), 6 Oct 2021
- Vientiane Times, [Digital education platform to boost children's learning](#), 6 Oct 2021
- UN Country Team Lao PDR, [Re-opening Schools balancing Health and Education: Keeping children safe, healthy and learning](#), 6 Sept 2021
- The Sydney Morning Herald, [The kids aren't all right: School closures leave lost generation](#), 2 Oct 2021
- Forbes, [Fed To Fail? UNICEF Report Shows Global Crisis In Children's Diets](#), 1 Oct 2021

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Annex A: Summary of Selected Programme Results

Areas of Response	2021 target	Total UNICEF Results	Increase from last SitRep
Nutrition			
Number of children aged 6 to 59 months with severe acute malnutrition admitted for treatment	357,115	31,619	▲ 13,793
Number of children and adolescents receiving messages on healthy diets	20,000,000	16,540,513	▲ 6,500,000
Health			
Number of children and women accessing primary health care in UNICEF-supported facilities	7,138,000	2,539,962	▲ 1,038,908
Number of children vaccinated against measles	14,493,000	5,838,022	▲ 479,299
WASH			
Number of people reached with critical water, sanitation and hygiene supplies (including hygiene items) and services	6,200,000	2,036,045	▲ 299,453
Number of people provided with access to appropriately designed hygiene and sanitation facilities	932,420	556,421	▲ 135,063
Child Protection, GBVIE and PSEA			
Number of children and caregivers accessing mental health and psychosocial support*	6,468,700	147,405	▲ 77,547
Number of women, girls and boys accessing gender-based violence risk mitigation, prevention or response interventions	7,200,000**	4,074,246	▲ 30,593
Number of unaccompanied and separated children reunified with their primary caregiver or provided with family-based care/alternative care services	34,800	9,907	▲ 1,509
Education			
Number of schools implementing safe school protocols	213,914	176,327	▲ 42,148
Number of children accessing formal or non-formal education, including early learning	29,171,000	32,222,620	▲ 324,523
Number of children with disabilities supported with access to learning	120,000	172,024	▲ 5,950
Social Protection and Cash Transfers			
Number of households benefiting from new or additional social transfers	7,469,000	4,286,772	▲ 4,686
C4D, Community Engagement and AAP			
Number of people reached through messaging on key life-saving behaviours and access to services***	312,000,000	318,661,891	▲ 16,562,122

*The activity includes all direct and indirect MHPSS interventions ranging from individual and group counselling to large scale MHPSS messaging.

**Target increased due to UNICEF's emergency responses to flooding and cyclones in Viet Nam, Philippines, and the Pacific, as well as second and third waves of COVID-19 in several countries across the region.

***As the same person might be reached through several channels more than once, targets and results have factored the possibility of double counting.

Annex B: Funding Status

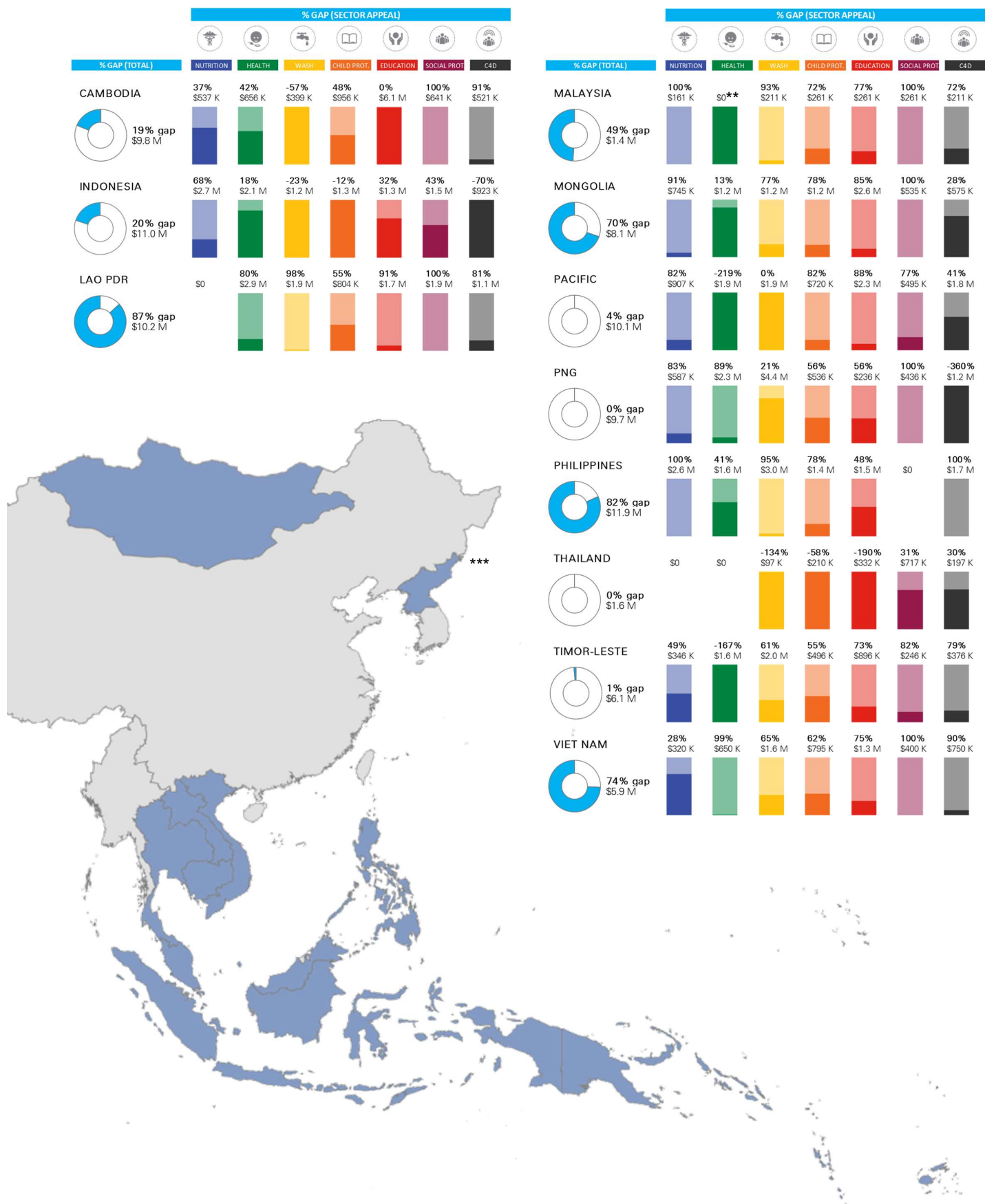
Sector	Requirements	Funds Available	Funding Gap	
			\$	%
Nutrition	\$ 8,470,339	\$ 1,947,914	\$ 6,522,425	77%
Health	\$ 15,578,670	\$ 15,804,588	\$ -	-
WASH	\$ 19,201,651	\$ 9,539,466	\$ 9,662,185	50%
Child Protection	\$ 7,733,163	\$ 4,184,347	\$ 3,548,816	46%
Education	\$ 19,954,452	\$ 10,276,980	\$ 9,677,472	48%
Social Protection	\$ 6,145,703	\$ 1,501,616	\$ 4,644,087	76%
C4D	\$ 8,620,062	\$ 9,392,502	\$ -	-
EPR	\$ 31,514,448	\$ 8,566,268	\$ 22,948,180	73%
Total	\$ 117,218,488	\$ 61,213,682	\$ 56,004,806	48%

*Includes funding for DPRK

Country	Requirements	Funds Available		Funding Gap	
		Received Current Year	Carry-Forward	\$	%
Cambodia	\$ 9,842,787	\$ 5,134,964	\$ 2,864,317	\$ 1,843,506	19%
Indonesia	\$ 11,040,664	\$ 5,546,591	\$ 3,300,818	\$ 2,193,255	20%
Lao PDR	\$ 10,180,362	\$ 1,337,860	\$ -	\$ 8,842,502	87%
Malaysia	\$ 1,368,800	\$ 499,672	\$ 198,054	\$ 671,074	49%
Mongolia	\$ 8,121,750	\$ 1,500,000	\$ 961,030	\$ 5,660,720	70%
Pacific	\$ 10,088,850	\$ 2,445,410	\$ 7,213,814	\$ 429,626	4%
PNG	\$ 9,724,900	\$ 4,881,972	\$ 4,967,484	\$ -	-
Philippines	\$ 11,875,650	\$ 674,867	\$ 1,493,860	\$ 9,706,923	82%
Thailand	\$ 1,551,677	\$ 1,608,589	\$ 541,547	\$ -	-
Timor-Leste	\$ 6,055,000	\$ 4,408,433	\$ 1,564,472	\$ 82,095	1%
Viet Nam	\$ 5,853,600	\$ 73,313	\$ 1,430,347	\$ 4,349,940	74%
Regional EPR	\$ 31,514,448	\$ 366,268	\$ 8,200,000	\$ 22,948,180	73%
Total	\$ 117,218,488	\$ 28,477,939	\$ 32,735,743	\$ 56,004,806	48%

*Includes funding for DPRK

Annex C: Funding Gap by Country and Sector*



* Includes cross-sectoral support, operational costs and recovery costs

** Malaysia received US\$ 492,693 towards health programmes

*** Funding for DPRK is included under Regional Emergency Preparedness and Response (not shown here)