



Consolidated Emergency Report for 2016

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Cover Photo:

Yohan Rapsing, 6, a pupil at Dancalan Elementary School in the town of Bobon, Northern Samar Province, shows a school bag with learning materials she received from UNICEF in the aftermath of Typhoon Nona. Northern Samar was one of the Philippine provinces hit hardest by Typhoon Nona in December 2015. The typhoon badly damaged more than 1,000 classrooms, costing an estimated PHP689 million worth of damages, according to the Department of Education Northern Samar Division.

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ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

ALS	Alternative Learning System
ARMM	Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao
C4D	communication for development
CFS	child-friendly space
CMAM	community-based management of acute malnutrition
CSO	civil society organization
DepED	Department of Education
DILG	Department of Interior and Local Government
DOH	Department of Health
DOH-HEMB	Department of Health-Health Emergency Management Bureau
DRR	disaster risk reduction
DRRM	disaster risk reduction and management
DRRMO	Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office
DRRMS	Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Service
ECCD	early childhood care and development
EiE	education in emergencies
GCRV	grave child rights violation
GNC	Global Nutrition Cluster
HAC	Humanitarian Action for Children
INGO	international non-governmental organization
IOM	International Organization for Migration
IRR	Implementing Rules and Regulations
IYCF	infant and young child feeding
LGU	local government unit
MILF	Moro Islamic Liberation Front
NGO	non-governmental organization
NNC	National Nutrition Council
OCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
OOSC/Y	out-of-school children/youth
PCA	Programme Cooperation Agreement
PhATS	Phased Approach to Total Sanitation
PIMAM	Philippine Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition
RADaR	Rapid Assessment of Damages Report
RCPWG	Regional Child Protection Working Group
rEBAP	Evidence-Based Planning for Resilient Local Health Systems Project
SAM	severe acute malnutrition
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SIP	School Improvement Plan
TLS	temporary learning space
UN	United Nations
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
WASH	water, sanitation and hygiene
WinS	WASH in schools
WMSU	Western Mindanao State University
ZOD	zero open defecation

Map of the Philippines



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Philippines is one of the world's most disaster-prone countries. Every year the country experiences human casualties, internal displacement of people and huge economic loss due to calamities and conflict. Climate change and a stalled peace process threaten to worsen and compound the vulnerability of children and their families.

However, thanks to the generosity of donors, USD13.7 million was available to support the UNICEF Philippines Country Office's emergency response, recovery and preparedness activities in 2016. With this funding, impactful results were achieved, often exceeding sector targets.

In 2013, UNICEF and the Government of the Philippines embarked on simultaneous humanitarian responses to the Zamboanga Siege, the Bohol earthquake and the impact of Super Typhoon Haiyan. From 2013 until today, many large gains have contributed to stronger, more resilient, 'building-back' systems. However, the government is constantly responding to the impact of a natural hazard or pockets of conflict. This means UNICEF must be ready to respond at all times, if requested to assist, even as the government has shown increasing will and capacity to respond by itself to humanitarian needs. Concurrently, UNICEF Philippines must also work to link humanitarian and development goals to strengthen capacity and establish more sustainable systems for national and local resilience.

In 2016, UNICEF made significant technical contributions to foster a more conducive enabling environment that supports humanitarian action. One key example of such contribution is the Implementing Rules and Regulations of the newly enacted Republic Act No. 10821 or Children's Emergency Relief and Protection Act. The law protects the fundamental rights of children during the preparedness, relief and response activities before, during and after emergency situations, where children are gravely endangered by circumstances that threaten their survival and development. Furthermore, an Omnibus Health Emergency Management Policy and Health Emergency Management Planning Guidelines will aid in rationalizing and supporting preparedness and response structures and initiatives within the health sector nationally, sub-nationally and locally. A Conflict-Sensitive Disaster Risk Reduction-Education in Emergencies (DRR-EiE) policy will inform and support the education sector in its School Improvement Plan (SIP) disaster risk reduction and management (DRRM) exercises.

UNICEF continues to play an important role as a partner in the government-led Clusters of agencies and humanitarian organizations. More specifically, UNICEF provides direct Cluster and information management support to the Quad Cluster (incorporating Health; Nutrition; Water, Sanitation and Hygiene [WASH]; and Mental Health Psychosocial Support), the Child Protection Sub-cluster and the Education Cluster. When the country experienced one of its worst drought cases from August 2015 until the first half of 2016 due to the El Niño phenomenon, the Nutrition Section joined joint rapid assessment teams and, through the Nutrition Cluster, gave technical support to both the Department of Health (DOH) and the National Nutrition Council (NNC) to plan for priority response activities in the areas affected by drought.

Working with and for adolescents formed an important part of UNICEF's peacebuilding effort in 2016. The engagement of children, especially adolescents, will inform and support UNICEF's work in the coming years, especially as UNICEF continues the disassociation of more children from the armed wing of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) in line with the key actions to be taken in the UN-MILF Action Plan.

The flexibility of donor contributions to thematic funds were critical in responding to the evolving humanitarian and recovery needs, and strengthening the links between immediate, life-saving,

humanitarian results and longer-term development outcomes, including building capacities and systems for national and local resilience in the face of future disasters and/or emergencies.

Humanitarian Context

The Philippines is one of the world's most disaster-prone countries. In addition to protracted conflict in the south, Mindanao, and now a stalled and unstable peace process, the country is vulnerable to recurrent typhoons, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, flooding and landslides. The year 2016 saw the dramatic impact of drought, as El Niño, aggravated by climate change, was the strongest on record. Drought threatened food security, sustainable agriculture and the availability of clean water. In the latter half of the year, a steady stream of typhoons, including a Super Typhoon, brought extensive flooding, landslides and catastrophic winds to Northern Luzon. They destroyed livelihoods and closed schools. The disasters affected women and children from indigenous communities most of all.

At the moment 224,402¹ people are displaced in Mindanao due to natural disasters and fighting driven by insurgency clan feuds. Approximately 67,185 need durable solutions and/or remain in temporary sites following the aftermath of the 2013 Zamboanga Siege and Typhoon Pablo in 2012.

In 2016, the UNICEF Philippines Country Office responded to four humanitarian situations: two related to a health crisis, one hydro-meteorological and one displacement caused by conflict. Seventy-three (73) cases of grave child rights violation (GCRV) were reported, of which 82 per cent were verified and responded to.

In 2016, UNICEF employed four broad approaches in its 2016 humanitarian strategy.

1. Address ongoing and residual humanitarian needs in Mindanao and in Haiyan-affected areas
2. Focus on preparedness and emergency contingency planning, including prepositioning of stocks and supplies and a contingency budget line item in Programme Cooperation Agreements (PCAs) which can be activated for immediate assessments and relief operations
3. Work with national and local governments on child-focused hazard mapping and integrating DRR, resilience building and system strengthening into their humanitarian programmes, and
4. Strengthen UNICEF's internal emergency management and coordination.

The Philippine Government has shown increasing will and capacity to respond by itself to humanitarian needs; it did not formally request international humanitarian assistance in 2016. However, bilateral requests from government departments and local government units (LGUs) are still common. This changing humanitarian context is compelling the Philippine Country Office to reassess its value-added and progressive approach to emergency preparedness, its role in humanitarian action and its responsibility to link humanitarian and development goals, enabling results to be more sustainable and fortifying systems and capacities for national and local resilience.

UNICEF continues to help children and contribute towards durable solutions for the internally displaced. This is particularly important in an environment where peace and order remains elusive and child populations still face many protection concerns.

¹ Protection Cluster Monthly Displacement Dashboard, December 2016-January 2017, Issue No. 34.

HUMANITARIAN RESULTS

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

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



A family affected by Typhoon Haima in Rizal, Kalinga Province, receives hygiene kits and water containers from UNICEF. © ACF Philippines/2016

Throughout 2016, UNICEF maintained its support to government efforts to strengthen WASH emergency preparedness and response capacities, and to implement WASH programming for early recovery in post-disaster and conflict-affected areas.

Following lessons learnt from the devastation wrought by Super Typhoon Haiyan in 2013, the government continued taking the lead in multiple small-scale emergencies. However, LGUs and/or government line agencies warmly welcomed international assistance through bilateral requests. In line with this, UNICEF mobilized in-country WASH contingency stocks and funds to respond to identified WASH needs for people living in transitory sites in Zamboanga (lingering effects of the armed conflict since August 2013), those affected by Typhoon Melor in December 2015 and families displaced by conflict in Maguindanao Province, Mindanao. Small-scale emergency response assistance was also given to areas struck by drought in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), a diarrhoeal outbreak in Samar Province and Super Typhoon Haima in Northern Luzon. UNICEF continued to invest in strengthening national and sub-national

systems and capacities for WASH in emergency coordination and information management.

WASH Haiyan Recovery

The WASH Haiyan recovery programme continued through 2016, with most civil society organization (CSO) partners meeting final targets in June 2016. For example, an additional 186 communities were certified as reaching 'zero open defecation' (ZOD) status in 2016, bringing the final number of ZOD communities under the WASH Haiyan recovery programme to 926 since 2014. The partnerships, begun in 2014, responded quickly to recovery needs, leaving in place sustainable strategies and stronger LGU capacities. Transition strategies were created, integrated and budgeted for in the work plans of municipal, provincial and regional government partners.

One example of strategy is the Phased Approach to Total Sanitation (PhATS), formulated jointly with the government and partners. PhATS includes WASH governance, demand creation in communities and learning centres, and strengthening availability of supply and services. UNICEF sustained efforts

to build local government capacity and work with regional health staff and CSO partners to support provincial and municipal WASH task forces in rolling out PhATS. The efforts resulted in a further 6,661 people using improved sanitation facilities and eight communities achieving ZOD.

Awards were handed to communities for reaching ZOD status, which is equivalent to Grade 1 sanitation under PhATS. The awards were used to improve community drinking water sources (benefitting over 98,000 people) and/or help communities upgrade their sanitation facilities (benefitting 57,846 people). By June 2016, the end of the WASH Haiyan recovery programme, 288 communities across the affected areas had been certified as achieving sustainable sanitation status (Grade 2 under PhATS). UNICEF maintained its support to the implementation of the ZOD data collection and monitoring system, developed using an Open Data Kit tool in Regions VI and VIII in 2015.

UNICEF also continued to strengthen the capacity of private sanitation entrepreneurs in Haiyan-affected areas to provide WASH products and services, including selling bio-sand filters, toilet construction and providing low-cost septage treatment through lime stabilization. Strategies to ensure sustainability of these WASH recovery investments include linking the entrepreneurs to municipal WASH task forces and microfinance institutions.

WASH in Schools

In Region VII, particularly in the School Divisions of Tacloban City and Leyte, an additional 1,210 children received access to drinking water and can practice daily tooth brushing and handwashing with soap in their learning environment. This is an outcome of UNICEF's installation of solar pump water systems and support to WASH infrastructure in 25 schools and day care centres through an international non-governmental organization (INGO) and the Leyte Municipal Water District. This brings the total number of students benefitting from this intervention to 3,964 since 2014. At the same time, further investments were made with the Department of Education (DepED) to strengthen school-based management for WASH in schools (WinS) in Regions VI and VIII. The overall WinS Three Star Approach Framework was drafted, along with school-based management of information, education and communication materials. With support from an INGO partner, the DepED in Regions VI and VIII also produced learning resources for WinS. The national WinS technical working group used these materials and, through a series of consultations, refined them for national adoption.

Although WASH in learning centres had been integrated into PhATS, specific additional work was undertaken in 2016 to advocate and give technical support for municipal-level planning and budgeting for WASH in schools and day care centres. Three LGUs in Leyte entered into a tripartite agreement with the DepED and national health insurer PhilHealth to demonstrate how the capitation funds² could be leveraged for sustainable financing for WASH in Schools.

WASH Communication for Development (C4D) Strategy 'Goodbye *Dumi*, Hello Healthy'

Following endorsement from the DOH in 2015, a WASH C4D strategy called 'Goodbye *Dumi*, Hello Healthy' was designed in 2016 for the roll-out of a Zero Open Defecation Programme in six regions (Regions V, VI, VII, VIII, XII and ARMM), including Haiyan-affected areas and Mindanao. It was used to strengthen and sustain positive WASH-related behaviours, including during crisis situations. The results of this intervention will be available in 2017.

² Reimbursable fund source available from PhilHealth



The 'Goodbye *Dumi*, Hello Healthy' WASH C4D strategy includes a musical comedy about the love story between a fly and a dump of human faeces. Young actors perform the play in schools and communities to increase awareness about the effects of open defecation. ©UNICEF Philippines/2015/Red Santos

WASH in Conflict-Affected Areas

To improve basic WASH conditions in conflict-affected areas, UNICEF supported PhATS implementation in three provinces and seven municipalities in Mindanao (Lebak, Kalamansig, Mamasapano, Aleosan, Midsayap, Upi and South Upi) through two INGOs. Technical assistance was given to the Regional Sub-Committee for Water and Sanitation to facilitate the coordination, planning, monitoring and evaluation of WASH programmes and projects in the ARMM.

To complement the 'Goodbye *Dumi*, Hello Healthy' roll-out, technical assistance to municipal WASH task forces helped build LGU capacities for WASH programme planning, budgeting, execution and monitoring. As a result, 9,219 people gained access to improved sanitation, and seven communities were able to achieve ZOD. Support to repair water sources and extend distribution networks in these conflict-affected areas resulted in an additional 4,035 people using water from an improved source.

WASH Cluster Coordination and Emergency Response

As co-lead of the WASH Cluster, UNICEF gave technical assistance for coordination and information management in a number of small-scale emergencies in 2016. UNICEF carried out priority activities under the WASH Cluster five-year strategic plan, including reviewing and updating the DOH information, education and communication materials; supporting the production of a training manual for WASH in emergencies; and creating an information management and capacity mapping tool. The Global WASH Cluster, through an INGO, added financial support for these activities, which will be completed by March 2017. The Global WASH Cluster also helped coordinate WASH emergency skills training for 30 staff from national, regional and provincial health offices, and national WASH Cluster CSOs. To strengthen preparedness, UNICEF supported WASH in emergencies training for CSO and local

government partners in Mindanao, and national contingency planning processes led by the DOH and the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).

WASH Emergency Preparedness

Throughout the year, UNICEF maintained prepositioned stocks and a number of long-term agreements for critical supplies and services in the event of an emergency. Additionally, WASH emergency clauses were included in existing PCAs with CSOs. Such agreements enabled rapid assessment of towns affected by Super Typhoon Haima and localized displacement in conflict-affected areas of Mindanao. Approximately 48,000 people directly benefitted from the provision of emergency water through water kits distribution, installation of water treatment units and chlorination of water sources; 23,424 people received hygiene kits and hygiene education to be better able to practise safe hygiene; and 3,500 people benefitted from toilet repair kits or temporary sanitation facilities to prevent open defecation during displacement and other emergency situations.

Challenges and Looking Forward

UNICEF, together with the DOH and several INGOs and CSO partners, continues to promote universal access to improved WASH services in humanitarian situations, especially for women and children at home, in schools and in day care centres.

Integrating PhATS into ongoing government work plans at the regional, provincial and municipal levels faced challenges resulting from the change of local chief executives following the mid-year elections, requiring additional advocacy and capacity-building efforts. As part of the transition strategy, limited advocacy and ongoing technical support will be extended to regional and provincial health teams to ensure the gains made to date are sustained. Documenting successful examples of government-led implementation will be a key strategy to contribute to local advocacy and the development of the planned national PhATS policy.

The repeated displacement of the population due to conflict, poverty and natural hazards has resulted in poor WASH conditions in Mindanao. Improving access to water and sanitation in conflict-affected areas is essential to the overall peacebuilding strategy. UNICEF will therefore continue to strengthen PhATS implementation and build capacity for WASH in emergencies in these areas.

WASH Results as of December 31, 2016

Indicators	Humanitarian Action for Children (HAC) Target	HAC Result	Typhoon Haiyan Target	Typhoon Haiyan Results ³	Total Results in 2016 ⁴
No. of people with access to safe water through emergency water supply measures and re-establishing safe water sources	40,000	52,535 ⁵	50,000	98,089	150,624
No. of communities certified free of open defecation in the reporting year only as a result of direct UNICEF support	n/a	n/a	85	186	186

³ These are the results from PCA partners from December 2015 until the respective end of date of PCA in 2016.

⁴ Combined HAC and Typhoon Haiyan recovery results. Haiyan targets and results were not included in the HAC 2016 end-of-year report.

⁵ Because of the nature of the emergencies, safe water supply was supported for a short period only, through the distribution of water kits or disinfection of wells. Collaboration with partners facilitated immediate response and greater reach. This is a revised figure from the 57,719 people in the UNICEF Philippines End-of-Year Humanitarian Situation Report – December 2016.

Indicators	Humanitarian Action for Children (HAC) Target	HAC Result	Typhoon Haiyan Target	Typhoon Haiyan Results ³	Total Results in 2016 ⁴
No. of people informed of sanitation and safe hygiene practices	66,000	32,643 ⁶	n/a ⁷	57,846	123,846

Results were achieved through contributions against appeals, and resources from UNICEF's regular programmes, where necessary.

Education

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



Pupils at Pambujan Central Elementary School in Pambujan, Northern Samar, continue their classes in tents provided by UNICEF in the aftermath of Typhoon Melor, which damaged classrooms at the school. © UNICEF Philippines/2016/Alanah Torralba

A child's return to schooling, within the shortest period of time following an emergency, is crucial. In 2016, UNICEF's Education Programme supported over 34,000 school-aged children⁸ affected by both

⁶ Due to the type/scale of the emergencies in 2016, limited support was requested from UNICEF. Support was given mainly for very short displacements and a diarrhoea outbreak.

⁷ No Haiyan target was set for 2016. However, the result recorded was because of ongoing Haiyan recovery initiatives.

⁸ As per the DepED's request, in 2016 UNICEF responded to at least three emergencies: Typhoon Nona (Melor) support for Masbate and Northern Samar Provinces; temporary learning spaces (TLS) for learners affected by conflict in South Upi, Mamasapano, and Bayang, Lanao del Sur; and support to learners in Region II and CAR affected by Typhoon Lawin (Haima).

In January 2016, approximately 11,473 children from Masbate and Northern Samar received learning materials such as elementary and high school student kits, school-in-a-box, and library and recreation kits. Fifty teachers were given teaching kits, and around 38 schools affected by Typhoon Melor received TLS tents. In July 2016, an estimated 11,339 children from Lanao del Sur and Maguindanao provinces benefitted from TLS tents, early childhood care and development (ECCD) and school-in-a-box kits, and 238 teachers received supplemental kits. UNICEF distributed these supplies to 34 schools affected by conflict emergencies and drought in the ARMM. Also, in November 2016, during the response in areas affected by Typhoon Haima, around 11,188 children aged 6-11 were supported through elementary student kits, school-

natural disasters and conflict-related emergencies by providing learning materials and supplies such as elementary student kits, school-in-a-box, teacher kits and tents for temporary learning spaces (TLS). These learning supplies and materials were distributed to approximately 152 schools and 338 teachers in selected areas in Regions II, V, IV-A, IV-B, VII, Cordillera Administrative Region and ARMM. This was done to ensure that children not only resume schooling as soon as possible, but also benefit from the protective and structured environment of schools, which aid in the normalization of a child's environment following sudden unexpected change.

Following the priorities and lessons learnt from the Typhoon Haiyan experience, the Education Programme, through the government, invested in strengthening the education system to be more resilient, ready and responsive in the event of an emergency—whether natural or conflict-related. Key investments include (1) improving the knowledge and skills of education service providers and personnel to respond to emergencies by creating the DRRM Training Package for DepED personnel and setting a conflict-sensitive DRR-EiE policy; (2) provision of immediate emergency supplies to re-establish learning spaces, which restore learning as quickly as possible; and (3) further strengthening of the Education Cluster and its capacity to support effective, efficient coordination. Special attention was also paid to reaching children who are outside the formal education system and indigenous children who have little or poor access to education facilities, teaching methods and supplies.

Building Back Better: Ongoing Support to Typhoon Haiyan-Affected Areas

As the Education programming transitioned from immediate response to supporting longer-term, sustainable, recovery activities, the focus in 2016 was not only on providing opportunities for learning following the emergency but also on education quality and equity in the Haiyan-affected areas.

Out-of-School Children and Youth (OOSC/Y) Initiative in Region VIII

In 2015, UNICEF, DepED Region VIII and an INGO established a Regional Out-of-School Children/Youth Steering and Advocacy Committee. The Committee serves as a platform for stakeholders to conduct collective analysis of the OOSC/Y situation, formulate strategies, discuss and address programme implementation bottlenecks, and advocate OOSC/Y issues. The Committee is made up of all 13 public school divisions in Region VIII, the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority, Department of Social Welfare and Development, Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), Department of Labor and Employment, National Economic and Development Authority and INGOs.

Transitioning to 2016, the Committee started gathering evidence on OOSC/Y as inputs for further strategies and to measure progress through a monitoring and evaluation framework.

DepED Region VIII collaborated with UNICEF in launching Project IncluED 8, an inclusive education initiative that seeks to develop a comprehensive information management system for mapping, profiling and tracking OOSC/Ys to be able to identify their barriers to learning, give them the appropriate interventions and encourage them to acquire the necessary academic and life skills. A Regional Summit was held in July 2016 to officially launch this initiative. Approximately 300 stakeholders from the DepED system, international donor agencies, INGOs, government agencies and LGUs in Region VIII participated. The ongoing project seeks to collaborate with various stakeholders in formulating an inclusive learning intervention plan to ensure that the learning needs of OOSC/Ys will be met and supported.

in-a-box and teacher kits. The learning supplies were given to about 80 schools and 50 teachers in Region II and CAR through coordination with the DepED Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Service. Lastly, as part of the emergency response to schools affected by Typhoon Nock-Ten in December 2016, approximately 1,900 children in Regions IV-A, IV-B, and V benefitted from TLS tents, library kits, school-in-a-box and recreation kits.

Similarly, the Regional OOSC/Y Steering and Advocacy Committee equipped approximately 440 stakeholders, including school division superintendents, Alternative Learning System (ALS) Division Coordinators and over 400 mobile teacher coordinators in DepED Region VIII with the knowledge and skills to manage the IncluED 8 system and develop an inclusive learning intervention plan. The information management system will be cascaded, implemented and sustained from the regional DepED, led by the Programme Management Team, to individual schools.

Support to Learning of Indigenous Children in the Town of Tapaz, Capiz

Another key intervention to support the learning of children who have no regular access to formal education was the refurbishment of Candelaria National High School-Roxas Extension, located in an upland area in the town of Tapaz, Capiz Province. The school is one of the very few giving access to education for children from significantly disadvantaged indigenous communities in the area. But in November 2013, Typhoon Haiyan caused substantial damage and rendered the school buildings unsafe. UNICEF provided direct support to the Tapaz LGU to refurbish the school, benefitting 1,000 children directly. The new facilities include a disaster-resilient classroom; a home facility with toilet for the teachers, many of whom are volunteers who used to sleep in a classroom; and a toilet with hand-washing facilities for girls and boys. Other classrooms underwent repair. The initiative further supported UNICEF's advocacy for more equitable access to education for all children in the Philippines.

School Improvement Planning: Quality Assurance of SIPs in the ARMM

Good school governance is critical to improving student access and learning outcomes. Using the lessons learnt in developing the SIPs of 222 schools in the ARMM (South Upi, Mamasapano, Parang and Upi in Maguindanao; Siasi and Parang in Sulu; and Languyan, Tawi-Tawi), the DepED, with UNICEF's support, trained key stakeholders to ensure quality of process and output in writing the SIPs.

In 2016, 200 division coordinators, district supervisors and selected school heads were equipped with the knowledge and appropriate skills to conduct mentoring and quality assurance in SIP. The training, mentorship and quality assurance process were meant to provide localized support to schools in formulating learner-centred, evidence-based plans with the active participation of community members and other stakeholders, such as LGUs, the private sector, CSOs, traditional leaders and people's organizations, who can help improve and support the delivery of education services. With improved SIP and community engagement, schools are better positioned to receive financial assistance for maintenance and other operating expenses, which will strengthen their planning processes and SIP execution.

Following the full adoption by the DepED-ARMM of the enhanced SIP process, SIP implementation will contribute significantly to localized bottom-up planning and budgeting, ensure a more relevant and thorough planning process, and achieve better educational outcomes for children.

System Strengthening Support to DepEd DRRM at National and Sub-national Levels

UNICEF is contributing to harmonizing DRRM mechanisms and systems at both the national and sub-national levels within the DepED. Improved DRRM within the DepED will contribute to an education system that is more resilient and better able to prepare for and mitigate disasters. UNICEF provided technical assistance to the DepED in creating a DRRM Training Package for DepED personnel. The training package focuses on strengthening the following skills: understanding hazards, DRRM planning and contingency planning for Basic Education, coordination, information management (e.g., Rapid Assessment of Damages Report [RADaR]), basic supplies and logistics management in emergencies, resource mobilization and partnership. Twenty-three modules were developed with the assistance

and endorsement of the Education Cluster. The intent is that, once finalized, the training package will be rolled out to all DRRM staff beginning in the first quarter of 2017.

Complementing this initiative is the production of School DRRM Manuals (Booklets 1 and 2) that set a common template for localizing, contextualizing and adopting DRRM mechanisms and processes at the sub-national level.

UNICEF collaborated with the DepED Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Service (DRRMS) in refining the Information Management and Coordination Protocol during Emergencies and developing the terms of reference for the Education Resilience Working Group, National Education Cluster and DepED Disaster Management Group. These coordination guidelines were amended with the active participation of the Education Cluster, co-led by UNICEF and Save the Children. As a result, the DepED improved its level of preparedness, including prepositioning of supplies, through contingency planning and preparedness planning exercises at the regional and national levels.

At the sub-national level, UNICEF and Save the Children supported DepED-ARMM in creating a conflict-sensitive DRRM Policy Framework. The draft policy was circulated to the DepED ARMM and DepED Central DRRMS Office for further comments and inputs. The policy will be completed in 2017 and is envisioned to improve the governance agenda on disaster-related risks, including those arising from armed conflict and climate change.

Education Cluster Coordination

In close coordination with the DepED, UNICEF acts as a co-lead in the Education Cluster at national and regional levels. Through this partnership, UNICEF has contributed to impactful sectoral results.

Both UNICEF and Cluster co-lead Save the Children facilitate key preparedness activities within the Cluster such as contingency planning for hydro-meteorological hazards and earthquakes, mapping of in-country capacity for appropriate response to emergencies and identifying of affected schools to be given TLS and supplemental learning materials and supplies. Furthermore, the terms of reference for both the Education Resilience Working Group and National Education Cluster were refined with the leadership of the DepED and the active participation and review of key members such as UNICEF, Save the Children, Plan International, World Vision, Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization-INNOTECH, Philippine Red Cross and Unilab Foundation.

Drawing from experiences in the Haiyan response and as an enhancement to the Cluster mechanism, the UNICEF WASH section is more involved in the Education Cluster in light of WinS. Through their continuous participation, UNICEF is able to advocate the inclusion of WASH indicators in RADaR, the DepED's assessment and reporting system for emergencies. This integration seeks to give a more complemented response to the affected schools by providing TLS and including WASH facilities and hygiene kits.

At the sub-national level, UNICEF supported the DepED-ARMM in convening a Cluster coordination meeting in August 2016. The group looked into the effects of intensified law enforcement operations in the island provinces of Basilan and Sulu, and in the SPMS box⁹ in mainland Maguindanao and Lanao provinces. Incident reports from the schools and districts were assessed to determine the extent of effects to schools. GCRV cases were recorded for verification.

⁹ Note: SPMS box is a term used by the military to refer to the area where the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters operate—the adjoining towns of Shariff Aguak, Pagatin (Datu Saudi Ampatuan town), Mamasapano and Shariff Saydona, all in Maguindanao.

2016 Emergency Preparedness and Response

Continuing the humanitarian response in Zamboanga City—with a specific focus on Masepla, the largest transitional site—UNICEF supported ongoing early childhood interventions and a day care feeding programme in partnership with Western Mindanao State University and LGUs. In 2016, 293 children aged 3-4 years old benefitted from the programme through day care centres and Supervised Neighbourhood Play Groups set up in barangay Mampang.

In 2016, prepositioned emergency education supplies directly supported over 34,000 children in schools affected by typhoons and those bombed in conflict-affected areas in Mindanao. In January 2016, approximately 11,473 children from Masbate and Northern Samar provinces received learning materials such as elementary and high school student kits, school-in-a-box, and library and recreation kits. Fifty teachers were given teaching kits, and around 38 schools affected by Typhoon Melor received TLS tents. In July 2016, an estimated 11,339 children from Lanao del Sur and Maguindanao provinces benefitted from TLS tents, early childhood care and development (ECCD) and school-in-a-box kits, and 238 teachers received supplemental kits. UNICEF distributed these supplies to 34 schools affected by conflict emergencies and drought in the ARMM. Also, in November 2016, during the response in areas affected by Typhoon Haima, around 11,188 children aged 6-11 were supported through elementary student kits, school-in-a-box and teacher kits. The learning supplies were given to about 80 schools and 50 teachers in Region II and Cordillera Administrative Region through coordination with the DepED DRRMS. Lastly, as part of the emergency response to schools affected by Typhoon Nock-Ten in December 2016, approximately 1,900 children in Regions IV-A, IV-B, and V benefitted from TLS tents, library kits, school-in-a-box and recreation kits.

In mid-2016, the Education Programme replenished 1,200 student kits as prepositioned supplies for emergency response. However, because of the aforementioned emergency situations, most of the supplemental learning materials such as teacher kits, student kits, school-in-a-box, library, recreation kits and TLS tents were distributed and are due for replenishment in the first quarter of 2017.

Challenges and Ways Forward

UNICEF will continue working with partners, especially the government, to sustain and replicate good practices nationally.

As part of UNICEF's support to Education Cluster coordination, the inclusion of WASH colleagues will be encouraged and WASH indicators added to the DepED RADaR. This will further enhance UNICEF's support to TLS. SIP rollout will also be pursued based on the positive results already documented.

For ECCD in emergencies, the formulation of guidelines for local implementation of RA 10821 (Children's Emergency Relief and Protection Act) will be linked to the work with the DILG on enhancing the DILG's Guide to Action Manual on Preparedness focused on children. This will ensure that the needs of children below 5 years old are better met in preparedness and emergency responses.

Education Results as of 31 December 2016

Indicators	UNICEF HAC Target	UNICEF HAC Result
No. of children who accessed safe learning environments	21,492	7,800 ¹⁰
No. of children given learning materials and supplies	53,700	34,005 ¹¹
No. of adolescents who accessed life skills and psychosocial support	4,000	13,785 ¹²¹³

Results were achieved through contributions against appeals, and resources from UNICEF's regular programmes, where necessary.

Health

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

Throughout 2016, the DOH Health Emergency Management Bureau (HEMB) showed leadership in responding to small-scale emergencies caused by typhoons and flooding, and a diarrhoea outbreak in Eastern Visayas that killed 31 people. UNICEF, with members of the Quad Cluster¹⁴, extended expert technical support to strengthen the government's efforts to lead health preparedness and response interventions for humanitarian action.

Previous investments by UNICEF in resilient Evidence-Based Planning and Budgeting, capacity building support for health emergency management coordinators and support during Typhoon Haiyan to the Acute Watery Diarrhoea Preparedness and Response Plan contributed positively to building capacities within the DOH in emergency preparedness and response at both national and local levels.

In 2016 support to the government focused on preparedness initiatives to strengthen the resiliency of regular health programmes and a significant investment in drafting an Omnibus Health Emergency Management Policy and Health Emergency Management Planning Guidelines. UNICEF provided technical expertise to the DOH-HEMB in formulating the Health Cluster Operational Response Plan and supported the Scenario-Building and Risk Assessment Workshop led by the World Health Organization as Health Cluster lead in coordination with the DOH-HEMB and UN OCHA. Participating members of the Quad Cluster included professional medical organizations, members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and other stakeholders. This initiative identified the major risks to WASH, nutrition and medical, reproductive and mental health and wellbeing in the community which will guide contingency planning of the Quad Cluster in the event of a major emergency.

¹⁰ The actual count was much lower than the target because UNICEF responded to only three emergencies in 2016, as per the DepED's request—Typhoon Nona (Melor) in Masbate and Northern Samar; conflict situations in South Upi, Mamasapano, and Bayang, Lanao del Sur; and Typhoon Lawin (Haima) in Region II and CAR. In addition, the completed construction of a school for indigenous children affected by Typhoon Haiyan in 2013 contributed to the overall result.

¹¹ The actual count was much lower than the target because UNICEF responded to only three emergencies in 2016, as per DepED request.

¹² In addition, 588 adolescents had their knowledge and skills strengthened to support peace dialogues and advocacy through the arts, directly reaching 183 people. A Facilitator's Guide for delivering life skills in Muslim communities was developed. The MILF began to identify and disengage children in the military structure across all its base commands, and Phase 2 of the Children, Not Soldiers campaign was launched in July with the MILF.

¹³ Support from the UN Peacebuilding Fund contributed to UNICEF's exceeding the HAC target in terms of access to life skills. However, little progress has been made in increasing access to psychosocial support due to lack of funding.

¹⁴ The DOH-led emergency Quad Cluster is activated in emergencies and is composed of the Health, Nutrition, WASH and Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Clusters. UNICEF co-leads the Nutrition and WASH Clusters.

National Policy and Guideline Development for Emergency Preparedness and Management

UNICEF extended significant technical and financial support in 2016 to developing key policy documents and guidelines: the Omnibus Policy on DRRM in Health and National Guidelines on DRRM-Health Planning. Both documents respond to the gaps identified by different partners and LGUs in the evidence-based planning for resilient health systems project (rEBAP) initiated post-Typhoon Haiyan in 2015. The most significant finding from rEBAP was that a number of HEMB policies did not necessarily conform to or create standards, and were developed in an ad hoc, responsive manner rather than systematically. Hence, standardizing and updating these policies was recommended.

The Omnibus Policy on DRRM in Health will support the DOH in developing a strategic, integrated and globally aligned policy on health emergency and DRRM for the DOH. The Omnibus Policy ensures coherence and the streamlining of the many policies issued by the DOH, making it easier to carry out emergency preparedness and response interventions at the local government level.

Through a partnership with the University of the Philippines College of Public Health Foundation, UNICEF provided the DOH with technical expertise to facilitate the review of existing policies and processes. This work was approached in three phases:

- **Phase 1** – focused on institutional policies, comparing them with national and international frameworks for guidance and standard setting.
- **Phase 2** – looked at policies and guidelines for implementation at various levels, including regional, provincial, city, municipal and hospital implementation. The review considered how data were gathered, collated and used based on existing guidelines. It was conducted with selected respondents in the National Capital Region, Bohol, Zamboanga City and Tacloban City.
- **Phase 3** – reviewed the outputs of Phases 1 and 2 with a broad range of stakeholders to best determine the way forward and to guide the development of the Omnibus Policy.

A draft of the Omnibus Policy is undergoing a final review by the HEMB, after which it will go through the approval process within the DOH.

In the aftermath of Typhoon Haiyan, UNICEF supported 50 LGUs in six provinces (Capiz, Iloilo, Cebu, Eastern Samar, Western Samar and Leyte) in Regions VI, VII and VIII on formulating Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Plans. In the absence of a national guideline on health emergency management planning, the rEBAP project developed a planning approach that LGUs, the DOH and other partners found useful. At the request of the DOH, UNICEF documented the lessons learnt from rEBAP which became inputs to the National Guidelines on DRRM-Health Planning. The guidelines were developed through a consultative process that included two three-day ‘write’ shops, one multi-stakeholder consultation and numerous National Guidelines on DRRMH Planning Core Group meetings with stakeholders from UNICEF, the HEMB Response Division, the College of Public Health, regional health authorities, LGUs and hospitals. A draft of the guidelines is undergoing final review by DOH-HEMB, after which it will be subject to the DOH approval process.

DOH-HEMB Strategic Plan (2017-2022)

The vision of the new DOH-HEMB Strategic Plan (2017-2022) is *Kaligtasan Pangkalusugan sa Kalamidad sa Kamay ng Komunidad* (5K) or ‘health safety in the hands of the community during emergencies’. A key component of the plan is equipping those expected to implement it with the knowledge and skills to do so effectively and efficiently. With technical support from UNICEF, DOH-

HEMB designed a formation and capacity-building programme to transform the health emergency management (HEM) coordinators at all government levels into health emergency managers and the 5K cadre¹⁵ to support and implement the new vision and strategic plan.

The formation and capacity building programme consists of three modules. Module 1 focuses on Leadership and Management. Module 2 covers the theoretical part of DRRM-Health Planning. Module 3 will be the application of Module 2, resulting in the production of a DRRMH strategic plan for provinces, hospitals and highly urbanized/independent component cities.

Module 1 is complete; its roll-out was initiated nationwide by DOH-HEMB with financial support from UNICEF. Module 2 is based largely on the DRRMH Planning Guidelines (to be approved) and is consequently pending approval, which is expected in the first quarter of 2017.

Mindanao Humanitarian Support

Ongoing conflict in Mindanao continues to displace families and communities, creating longer-term barriers to consistent access to and delivery of healthcare services for children. This is most evident in existing health outcomes in Mindanao. The ARMM has the lowest health indicators in the country.

In response, UNICEF, through DOH-ARMM, strengthened its routine immunization programme by providing technical support to improve vaccine and cold chain management in 2016. A tetanus diphtheria immunization campaign supported by UNICEF in Sulu, Basilan, selected LGUs of Lanao del Sur, Marawi City and Isabela City enabled the vaccination of about 300,000 women and contributed to the government's target to eliminate tetanus in mothers and newborn babies.

Emergencies and Preparedness

As part of preparedness activities, UNICEF supported the introduction of the Web-based Vaccination Supplies and Stock Management System, initially covering the national vaccine store and eight pilot DOH regional health offices. The system is envisioned to improve efficiency and accuracy of vaccine inventory, and stock distribution and monitoring at the national vaccine store and eight regional DOH offices, thus benefitting an estimated 2 million women and children once fully functional.

Challenges and Looking Forward

Pockets of deprivation still remain for the most vulnerable mothers and children, especially those with disabilities, in geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas, and among indigenous people.

UNICEF will maintain its partnership with the DOH-HEMB to further strengthen, standardize and institutionalize health emergency planning in all LGUs and to rationalize existing guidelines in order to harmonize health emergency management-related policies. Technical support will be given to develop Modules 2 and 3 of the 5K cadre/health emergency manager formation and capacity building. Support will also be given to building the capacity of the ARMM in health emergency management preparedness in coordination with DOH-HEMB in 2017.

To contribute to resilience building in the regular health programming of LGUs, the expanded Reaching Every *Purok* strategy will cover geographically isolated and hard-to-access indigenous communities.

¹⁵ The 5K cadre is a regional group of DRRMH experts composed of provincial HEM coordinators. The 5K model is being tested in Region VIII.

Health Results as of 31 December 2016

Indicators	UNICEF HAC Target	UNICEF HAC Result
No. of children fully covered with the Expanded Programme on Immunization	12,000	12,351
No. of children under 5 years who received vitamin A and deworming medication	28,000	20,550 ¹⁶ 25,915 ¹⁷
No. of young people who demonstrated correct knowledge of sexual health and HIV	3,500	4,466
No. of young people aged 15-24 who access commodities including condoms, lubricants and contraception	1,000	87 family planning commodities (female) and 1,213 given condoms (males)
No. of young people aged 15-24 who access sexually transmitted infection/HIV testing	1,000	423 ¹⁸

Results were achieved through contributions against appeals and resources from UNICEF's regular programmes, where necessary.

Adolescents

In 2016, the majority of adolescent-focused programming took place in Mindanao and centred on adolescent participation in community peacebuilding processes and mechanisms. Lessons learnt from the life skills capacity building exercises in 2015 (Creating Connections and *Usap Tayo* [Let's Talk]) served as the foundation of these initiatives in 2016.

UNICEF mainly supported creating safe spaces for adolescents to participate in decision-making and peacebuilding efforts within their communities. This encouraged and built the capacity of adolescents to become active peace advocates. A key tool used to facilitate and bolster their expression of ideas and experiences was creative expression using art forms. As a result, the participants were able to discuss and explore themes on conflict and peacebuilding, and better internalize what this meant to them individually and how they could then better communicate their ideas to others.

¹⁶ This figure is for Vitamin A supplementation.

¹⁷ This figure relates to deworming coverage only in Lanao del Sur for children 12-59 months.

¹⁸ A delay in finalizing the PCAs delayed the implementation of activities.



Students of Mindanao State University-Maguindanao Campus wave white paper doves during the Peace Concert held to mark the International Day of Peace. ©UNICEF Philippines/2016/Bobby Lagsa

Adolescent Participation in Peacebuilding

In 2016, adolescent participation formed an essential part of the UNICEF-supported Peacebuilding Strategy in Mindanao. Adolescents were engaged meaningfully in efforts to build peace and prevent violence. This approach aimed to achieve the following key results:

- Strengthen mechanisms to promote the rights of children, especially adolescents, in the peace process
- Strengthen the knowledge of key service providers to children at risk of association with and recruitment by armed groups.

These results were supported by UNICEF's financial and technical support and partnerships with local CSOs, academic partners and LGUs. Activities were held in Mamasapano, Datu Saudi Ampatuan, Kalamansig, Kiamba, Maitum, Zamboanga City, North Cotabato¹⁹ and seven Front and 31 Base Commands of the MILF.

Mechanisms to promote the rights of children, especially adolescents, in the peace process were strengthened in targeted communities through the promotion of safe spaces for violence prevention (participatory creative processes); using community-level peace dialogues and non-violent communication media such as theatre, arts, photography and drama; peacebuilding advocacy

¹⁹ Target communities have different challenges linked to the political, security and social context. Mamasapano and Datu Saudi Ampatuan are experiencing long-standing conflict, with the Special Action Force 44 incident further fueling insecurity amongst the community. Kiamba and Maitum in Sarangani, and Kalamansig in Sultan Kudarat are considered post-conflict areas, but human development indicators on health, education and access to other services remain low. Issues concerning indigenous peoples are also pertinent. The Zamboanga Siege reshaped the sense of stability and security of communities in the city. Zamboanga City is the gateway to Basilan, Sulu and Tawi-Tawi, and acts as the alternative home for young people and their families experiencing conflict in the three island provinces.

messaging aligned with the 2016 International Peace Day Celebration; development of a Life Skills for Peace Manual; ALS for peacebuilding; and creation of violence prevention videos by the adolescents.



Nai-Nai, 16 (rightmost), participates in a video workshop, an activity UNICEF designed for young people in the Masepla Transitory Site in Zamboanga City. ©Ateneo Center for Culture and the Arts/2016/A.M. Abdusali

Art and drama workshops gradually built the skills set of adolescents through tools and exercises that explored the themes of diversity, unity, community spirit and personal and community aspirations, with peace at the core. Six hundred and ten (610) adolescents gained the knowledge and skills to implement peacebuilding activities using nonviolent communication. But more importantly, the platforms gave them a safe space to express themselves while learning important skills and competencies. One notably output was the Fringe Play Tour that brought together adolescents in the promotion of peace in communities in Zamboanga City and reached about 11,100 adolescents.

A second key output from UNICEF's technical and financial support is the Scaling Up the Arts for Development Programme for out-of-school indigenous youth affected by the Zamboanga Siege in 2013. The programme started as life skill sessions on peace and adolescent development, but now encourages out-of-school youth to complete their high school equivalency programme. The project has gained major recognition and has become a unique example of ALS for the DepED in Zamboanga City. The programme not only requires students to read modules and pass exams, but also use their innate talents through arts, music and culture to complete college education. Young people affected by the siege were part of programme conceptualization and implementation. While the course is still ongoing and further impact assessments are needed, it has gained positive reviews and the favourable endorsement of the National Youth Commission.

A third key output of adolescent engagement in peacebuilding is an adolescent peacebuilding manual. The manual aims to guide activities for adolescents 14 to 19 years old and equip them in specific peacebuilding competencies: self-value, leadership, connection, collaboration, critical thinking and analysis, communication and expression. With the support of an international consultant, two local youth facilitators, a Mindanao adolescent focal point and UNICEF staff, the module was developed through a series of meetings, focus group discussions and key informant interviews. Community focus group discussions were held in Sarangani Province, North Cotabato and Marawi City among various groups of adolescents, older youth, parents, community leaders, stakeholders and peacebuilding

practitioners. The manual uses a framework of knowledge, skills and attitudes especially important for conflict-affected young people in Mindanao, including those previously associated with armed groups. It focuses on what they need to be able to do and what they can do right now to cope with crisis and instability; to build, restore or strengthen supportive relationships with families, peers and others; to explore and express their interests and priorities; and to take action in their communities in roles they value.

#Children, Not Soldiers Campaign

The advocacy campaign for MILF communities called #Children, Not Soldiers was promoted in seven MILF Front Commands, 31 Base Commands and their surrounding communities using cultural presentations and traditional music and dance competitions to raise awareness of the risk children face upon association with and recruitment by armed groups. Although primarily targeting younger children, the campaign also reached adolescents and other stakeholders. About 2,347 adolescents and young people in MILF communities were sensitized to the key campaign messages. The campaign, a key C4D component of implementing the UN-MILF Action Plan, strived to effect positive change in community practices and behaviour relating to the involvement of children within the MILF armed wing, influence internal processes to counter these norms in a non-threatening way, and generate alternative views/perspectives that can dissuade children, parents and communities from associating with the MILF.

To reinforce the positive peacebuilding messages, the Mindanao Organization for Social and Economic Progress and Muslim Youth Religious Organization equipped 310 adolescents and 57 stakeholders, including representatives from the DepEd and Department of Social Welfare and Development, and community leaders from the provinces of Maguindanao, North Cotabato and Cotabato City, in delivering key services to children at risk of association with and recruitment by armed groups. The initiative covered raising awareness on violence against children, the risks to children and where and how services such as psychosocial support could be accessed through referral pathways.

Direct service providers such as LGU social workers, school personnel, Philippine National Police Women and Child Protection Desks and community officials also gained knowledge and skills in implementing the Department of Justice Protocols on Case Management for Child Victims of Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation, and the key role community officials play in identifying and referring victims of violence.

International Day of Peace



Children from Bangsamoro (Muslim nation) communities dance at a peace festival held in September. By promoting peace and child protection through arts and culture, the event sought to broaden community understanding of the welfare of children and their role as instruments of peacebuilding. ©UNICEF Philippines/2016/Bobby Lagsa

UNICEF provided both technical and financial support to a month-long celebration of peace, culminating on International Day of Peace in September 2016. This celebration highlighted the activities implemented during the year and actively promoted the following messages:

- **Peace is when children enjoy their full rights.** Peace can truly exist only when children can go to school, play, express themselves freely and live in peaceful communities.
- **We should listen to children.** Children in Mindanao have so much to say about their situation and aspirations. They are the same as children in the rest of Philippines—they want to play, draw, go on the Internet and learn.
- **Peace is the only option/the only way to fulfil the rights of children.**

Creating Safe Spaces Linked to Adolescent Health Services

UNICEF actively engaged in and supported a thorough mapping of programmes for adolescents in Zamboanga City to ensure that these programmes are complementary and they positively reinforce key messages. One example showing this positive alignment is the partnership between the Human Development and Empowerment Services in Zamboanga City and the City Health Office and City Social Welfare and Development Office. They cooperated in delivering matching activities for adolescents at risk of HIV infection. Through the support and approval of the Zamboanga City Government, Human Development and Empowerment Services was able to provide minor's access to HIV-testing services and family planning products regardless of age—a significant win in light of pre-existing policies prohibiting reproductive health services to children under 18 who have no parental consent.

Adolescents then received services to life skills and alternative learning options through other organizations in Zamboanga City, thus strengthening the Service Delivery Network.

The partnership led to promising results. In 2016, the number of adolescents accessing services through the implementing partners' facilities/activities at community level surged from an average of three adolescent clients to 83 clients per month.

Challenges and Lessons Learnt

The emergence of the peacebuilding focus in programming for adolescents in Mindanao is a specific response to a countrywide adolescent strategy to strengthen Adolescent and Youth Participation and Networks. Carrying out several key initiatives in 2016 provided excellent 'first' activities to demonstrate and test methodology, gain buy-in from local stakeholders and gather a first cadre of enthusiastic, empowered, teenage agents of change for peace. The short quick-impact strategy delivered many options and lessons for further scale-up of the interventions in the future. On the other hand, the opportunity for scale-up lies in the strategies of partners to sustain the efforts and initiate partnerships. The development of an Adolescent Peacebuilding Manual will be a huge contribution to peacebuilding initiatives in communities, with an initial focus on Mindanao. Moreover, the manual will be a guide to the delivery of exercises for children recently disengaged from the MILF.

Considering that the participation of adolescents and youth in social media and mobile applications is increasing, innovations in programme implementation need to be explored. Social media sites like Facebook and online dating applications can be used to give information and support to adolescents too shy to come forward publicly for information on reproductive health, HIV, sexually transmitted infections and reproductive health services.

Child Protection

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



Children in MILF communities receive UNICEF bags and certificates signifying their disengagement from military activities of the MILF, at one of the disengagement ceremonies held in the MILF communities and camps across Mindanao. © UNICEF Philippines/2016/Jeoffrey Maitem

The UNICEF Child Protection Programme remains on track with its humanitarian action targets. With the government's monitoring, reporting and response system and with Child Protection Working Groups, initiatives in the GCRV monitoring and reporting mechanism in situations of armed conflict were sustained at national and sub-national levels, and were open to technical support from UNICEF and other UN agencies. Critical progress was achieved in 2016 in developing and promoting common standards to guide a child protection humanitarian response, including the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of RA 10821, the Children's Emergency Relief and Protection Act; reconciliation of the Child-Friendly Spaces Implementation Guidelines, approved by the Council for the Welfare of Children in 2014, with the 2015 findings of the Child-Friendly Spaces Evaluation; and ongoing drafting of the operational standards for family tracing and reunification. Data gathering and analysis for periodic reports on GCRV monitoring and reporting, and for the Child Protection Working Group, include identifying gender-based concerns that UNICEF and its partners can respond to. While efforts were made to ensure sex and age-disaggregated data are collected, the data gap continues to block proper understanding, prevention of and response to the impact of disasters on women and girls.

Monitoring and Reporting of Grave Child Rights Violations

The Philippine Country Task Force on Monitoring and Reporting, with technical secretariat at UNICEF, continued to improve its geographic coverage of monitoring and verification activities, and raise

awareness among humanitarian organizations and parties to the conflict. The effort increased the number of reports submitted directly by Country Task Force partners and the alleged violations reported by parties to the conflict. As of 30 November 2016, verification and response were completed for 82 per cent of the reported GCRV cases (61 of the 73 recorded in 2016). Moreover, 9,085 communities, partners and stakeholders were educated and informed on child rights and child protection, while 4,075 conflict-affected and displaced children received psychosocial support.

Periodic, low-intensity, armed engagements, combined with larger-scale military operations by the Armed Forces of the Philippines against the Abu Sayyaf Group, Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters and Maute Group, continued to affect children, predominantly in Mindanao. The expanded operations of these violent radical groups pose serious security concerns for civilian communities.

Grave violations were still reported in indigenous communities in Mindanao, resulting from the conflict between the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the New People's Army, and ongoing involvement of paramilitary groups. In the second half of 2016, the resumption of peace talks and ceasefire between the new administration and the New People's Army contributed to a better security situation and the reduction of GCRVs in conflict-affected areas.

With UNICEF support, under the UN-MILF Action Plan the MILF continued to show strong commitment to carrying out the plan to end and prevent child recruitment and use. Most of the benchmarks have been reached, and 178 children have already been formally disengaged from the armed group. The official disengagement of the remaining children is expected to take place in the first quarter of 2017, together with support services to minimize the risk of re-association of the children.

Following the enactment of the Children's Emergency Relief and Protection Act in May 2016, UNICEF supported the government in conducting nationwide consultations for the development of the accompanying IRR. These consultations sought to orient frontline service providers on the salient features of the law, gather regional inputs to define the roles and responsibilities of the different stakeholders in effectively implementing the provisions of the law, and ensure that the IRR considers the context of both natural and armed-conflict emergencies. The enactment of the law and its IRR mandated and institutionalized functional child protection systems offering preventive and response services in emergency-affected areas, through the Child Protection Cluster at the national level and activation and strengthening of Regional Child Protection Working Groups (RCPWGs).

Child Protection Sub-cluster Coordination

To date, 11 of the 17 regions have issued resolutions on RCPWG as a sub-structure of the existing Regional Sub-committees for the Welfare of Children. The issuance of the IRR would mandate all regions to organize their RCPWGs. The law also incorporates provisions that were in line with the Children in Situations of Armed Conflict Bill, still pending in Congress.

Challenges and Looking Forward

With the finalization of the UN-MILF Action Plan in 2017, a programme of support to the disengaged and at-risk children will be developed and implemented to prevent their (re)association with armed groups. Several challenges will have to be considered, such as the lack of financial resources to sustain the programme, the accessibility of remote communities, the need to coordinate with a broad range of partners, the uncertain outcome of the peace process and the rising threat of radical armed groups.

Child Protection Results 2016

Indicators	UNICEF HAC Target	UNICEF HAC Result
No. of reported GCRV cases verified and responded to	75%	82% ²⁰
No. of partners and stakeholders educated and informed on child rights and child protection	3,000	9,085 ²¹
No. of conflict-affected and displaced children who received psychosocial support	12,000	4,075

Results were achieved through contributions against appeals and resources from UNICEF's regular programmes, where necessary.

Nutrition

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

The Philippines experienced one of the worst cases of drought from August 2015 until the first half of 2016 due to the El Niño phenomenon. The drought threatened food security, sustainable agriculture and availability of safe drinking water in many parts of the country. In the latter half of 2016, typhoons battered Northern Luzon.



Children stand on a dried-up field in Mamasapano, Maguindanao, an area affected by El Niño. ©UNICEF Philippines/2016/Maitem

²⁰ Percentage of reported GCRV cases that have been verified and responded to. This represents 61 of the 73 GCRV cases.

²¹ This total is disaggregated as reported: male = 2,850; female = 2,712; unidentified = 3,523.

The Nutrition Section participated in joint rapid assessment teams and, through the Nutrition Cluster, provided important technical support to both the DOH and NNC in planning for priority response activities in the areas affected by drought.

To sustain and scale up nutrition programming in Mindanao, UNICEF maintained its engagement with Health Organization for Mindanao. The partnership focused on strengthening the knowledge and skills of local health and nutrition staff and volunteers in quality nutrition interventions such as infant and young child feeding (IYCF), management of severe acute malnutrition (SAM), micronutrient supplementation as well as data and information management.

Nutrition Cluster Coordination

Since the transition of the National Nutrition Cluster leadership to the NNC in July 2014, the NNC has been leading the Cluster in planning for, responding to and monitoring the nutrition situation in emergency- and drought-affected areas.

UNICEF is still the Cluster co-lead; it gives technical expertise on nutrition in emergencies and Cluster coordination to the National Nutrition Cluster. In the first quarter of 2016, the Cluster updated its capacity maps, which proved useful in identifying areas with gaps and vulnerabilities should an emergency occur. UNICEF also supported the refinement of the Minimum Service Package for Nutrition Response to consider the slow-onset effects of the 2016 drought on the nutritional status of children under 5 years and their mothers. This version of the package was then used to further strengthen the draft Nutrition Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan. Despite delays, the NNC, with support from UNICEF, finalized the draft and presented it to the Technical Committee in August 2016 to undergo one more round of revisions for final review and endorsement in February 2017.

Nutrition Cluster Information Management

In 2016, major steps were taken to strengthen information management within the Nutrition Cluster. The gaps in information management were identified in a Philippine case study titled 'Philippine Nutrition Cluster: Lessons learnt from the response to Typhoon Haiyan', published by the Emergency Nutrition Network. The case study identified the following challenges: (1) limited information management knowledge and skills among national government staff, (2) a host of reporting forms that were not aligned, (3) limited local systems and structures for information management, and (4) no single existing surveillance system to build on. The study proposes strengthening existing nutrition surveillance systems and creating standard training packages for nutrition information managers.

With financial support from UNICEF and the Global Nutrition Cluster (GNC), two NNC officers attended a training exercise hosted by the GNC in cooperation with RedR UK. The two officers were introduced to and equipped to deliver a GNC information management training package. On their return, the officers adapted the course to the Philippine context and, to date, have trained 38 regional staff from the NNC and DOH. More partners in the Nutrition Cluster also joined the training activities and acquired the appropriate data-collecting and analysis skills to support decision-making.

Scale-Up of Management of Severe Acute Malnutrition



The DOH, UNICEF and partners launched the National Guidelines for the Management of Severe Acute Malnutrition among Under-5 Children. © UNICEF Philippines/2015/Louise Maule

The DOH officially endorsed and adopted the guidelines for the management of SAM in December 2015. UNICEF's advocacy in 2015 resulted in the commitment of USD3.3 million in the 2016 government health investment plan for the scale-up of services for management of SAM in children. This commitment reached 50,000 children with SAM in 2016. As a result of ongoing advocacy led by UNICEF, the DOH committed an additional USD3.3 million in 2017 to cover the procurement of supplies and equip trainers and service providers in implementing the Philippine integrated approach to the management of malnutrition in targeted provinces.

In 2016, UNICEF helped the DOH in developing standard SAM training modules. Using these modules, DOH-led training in the 17 priority provinces strengthened the knowledge and skills of 150 medical staff and nutritionists who will serve as trainers. UNICEF also supported the DOH in buying essential SAM management commodities through UNICEF's procurement services. Funds were derived from the DOH Nutrition Work and Financial Plan.

Scaling Up Nutrition in Mindanao and Zamboanga

Service delivery points in 27 LGUs affected by long-standing conflicts and displacement in the ARMM and Zamboanga City received essential nutrition supplies for SAM and micronutrient programming, and IYCF counselling services from the Health Organization for Mindanao funded by UNICEF.

Out of the 47,769 children under 5 screened for SAM, more than 900 children with SAM were identified and received life-saving care. Among the cases, 473 or 75 per cent of all discharges were considered cured. One-year supply of micronutrient powder benefitted 8,609 children aged 6-23 months, 26,258 or 94 per cent of targeted pregnant women took the complete dose of iron and folic acid, and 17,562 pregnant and breastfeeding women received counselling on optimal IYCF. UNICEF and the World Food Programme provided technical support to government nutrition focal persons on analysing the results of Operation *Timbang* (i.e., annual screening to identify malnourished children aged 0-71 months by measuring their weight and height) and nutrition indicators (e.g., exclusive breastfeeding, infants who received solid food, etc.) in the Field Health Service Information System.

The support enabled the staff to determine the gaps and strategies to improve the delivery of nutrition interventions. One important strategy identified was advocacy to LGUs to allocate funds focusing on the first 1,000 days of a child's life, as part of their nutrition action plans.

Food and Nutrition Security Early Warning System

Given the massive devastation brought by Typhoon Haiyan in November 2013, UNICEF recommended the adoption of the Early Warning System for Food and Nutrition Security in Haiyan-affected areas to improve preparedness in these locations. Region VI was chosen as the expansion area over the two other affected regions because it has great potential for adopting the strategy, given its technical human resource and strong LGU commitment.

Since 2014, UNICEF and the UN Food and Agriculture Organization have jointly established an Early Warning System for Food and Nutrition Security in 10 towns in the provinces of Aklan and Capiz. The joint project strengthened the capacities of officials in the 10 LGUs in collecting, analysing, reporting and using food security and nutrition data for evidence-based decision-making and programme planning. The capacity building proved especially useful to the LGUs during the first half of 2016, when they were able to use their quarterly data in identifying and mitigating the effects of the drought on agriculture, livelihoods and the nutritional status of children.

High-Level Advocacy for Nutrition

With support from UNICEF, the DOH and NNC initiated high-level advocacy efforts with the launch of the 2015 Global Nutrition Report and Scaling Up Nutrition Movement, together with the Philippine Coalition of Advocates for Nutrition Security, UN agencies and other multi-sectoral agencies. The forum gathered key players to determine actions that would address malnutrition in the framework of Scaling Up Nutrition. It also convened implementers of the ECCD Intervention Package for the First 1,000 Days, a priority government project starting 2016 to address stunting (low height for age) by focusing on maternal and young child nutrition, health, early childhood education and social services. Stakeholders discussed technical and operational arrangements to implement integrated programmes in 10 priority provinces of the Updated Philippine Development Plan 2011-2016—Pangasinan, Quezon, Camarines Sur, Iloilo, Negros Occidental, Cebu, Leyte, Zamboanga del Sur, Davao del Sur and Sulu. The provinces were chosen based on poverty incidence and potential for local economic growth.

In August 2016, the DOH, NNC and UNICEF commissioned a costing study to determine the economic impact of undernutrition, especially stunting, using local evidence. The results were used to support ongoing advocacy and estimate the cost of 15 Scalable Nutrition Actions in draft national policies.

Reporting and Documentation Challenges

Challenges in reporting and documenting nutrition indicators at all levels remain. Key nutrition indicators are not yet part of the health system's routine reporting, and experiences during the Haiyan response still await integration into the routine health reporting system, especially in the areas of community-based management of malnutrition and IYCF.

Hence, achievements remain underreported, particularly in IYCF counselling and life-saving care to children with SAM. On the other hand, reporting on micronutrient supplementation, including Vitamin A and iron and folic acid, remains slow since both indicators are collected through the regular health system of biannual reporting. UNICEF, government counterparts and the Nutrition Cluster continue to work closely in identifying bottlenecks and strengthening reporting systems by developing the appropriate reporting forms and mechanisms.

Nutrition Results as of 31 December 2016

Indicators	UNICEF HAC Target	UNICEF HAC Result
No. of mothers/caregivers who accessed IYCF counselling for appropriate feeding	45,000	18,289 ²²
No. of children aged 6-59 months admitted to SAM programmes	1,450	871 ²³
More than 75 per cent recovery rate for children treated for SAM	>75%	77.3% (447 cured out of 578 discharged)

Results were achieved through contributions against appeals and resources from UNICEF's regular programmes, where necessary.

Social Protection

Bridging the gap between humanitarian actions and sustaining longer-term development goals is key to UNICEF's work in the Philippines. To help the government situate its commitment to meeting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), UNICEF is directly supporting a 15-year nationwide Longitudinal Cohort Study on 10-year-old Filipino girls and boys. The study aims to put a human face to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and produce inputs for policymaking and development programming on health, education and other key areas for young people today and in the future. The specific objectives of the study are (1) to examine how the interplay of individual, household and community factors modifies the effects of programme/intervention exposure on key cohort outcomes (i.e. health, nutrition); (2) to collect data on key indicators measuring all 17 SDGs, focusing on SDGs relevant to the UN Population Fund and UNICEF agenda; and (3) to gather data on marginalized sectors of society—urban and rural poor; disabled; lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and intersex; and indigenous people.

Leading the study is the University of San Carlos – Office of Population Studies. Other partners are the Demographic Research and Development Foundation and Xavier University – Research Institute for Mindanao Culture. Data collection started in the last quarter of 2016 with a household survey answered by the mother or main caregiver of the 10-year old 'index child', an interviewer-administered questionnaire answered by the index child, a self-administered questionnaire answered by the index child and a questionnaire answered by key informants in the chosen community.

A second key annual activity supported in 2016 was the Governance Fair, which focused on the welfare, protection and development of children. Approximately 800 participants took part over two days. Among the highlights was the presentation of best practices of programmes for children, the launch of the UNICEF Innovations Challenge Fund and the Local Government Academy's Mentoring for Optimal Leadership and Development programme.

Resilience - Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)

DRR is an integral component of UNICEF's early recovery interventions and a core pillar of the Philippine Country Programme. In 2016, UNICEF helped strengthen national and local capacities for risk-informed and child-centred DRR programming and humanitarian action by providing technical assistance to key national government agencies, contributing to improved enabling environments that protect children better during emergencies, establishing models of community-based child-centred

²² Data as of October 2016. Because of the elections in May 2016 and population displacements secondary to security issues, LGU and implementing partner staff were able to fully scale up screening, counselling and treatment services only in the first and third quarters.

²³ Because of the elections in May 2016 and population displacements secondary to security issues, LGU and implementing partner staff were able to fully scale up screening, counselling and SAM treatment services only in the first and third quarters, resulting in the identification and admission of only 871 SAM children instead of the estimated 1,450.

DRR and supporting evidence and knowledge generation that will inform interventions and guidance frameworks more thoroughly.

Enabling Environment to Better Protect Children in Emergencies

The finalization of the IRR of Republic Act 10821, or the Children's Emergency Relief and Protection Act, is a key achievement with colleagues from the Child Protection Programme. UNICEF gave significant technical inputs to the IRR and supported an extensive consultative process aimed at orienting frontline service providers on the salient features of the law and gathering inputs to define the roles and responsibilities of the different stakeholders. The law and its IRR were guided by gaps identified in the Typhoon Haiyan response. Innovations in humanitarian response for natural and human-induced emergencies were introduced in this new law.

Piloting Initiatives on Child-Centred DRR

The first phase of a child-centred DRR piloting initiative was completed in early 2016. This project provided an opportunity to start and support localized, multi-sectoral DRR planning exercises that put children and their voices at the centre of community-based efforts on DRR and building resilience. Ten villages in three pilot sites (municipalities) strengthened their DRRM Councils and revised or informed community-led, child-centred, DRRM plans using inputs from community-led processes and children's voices. These improved systems of DRRM and planning contribute to better community safety and resilience, and have a direct impact on 18,000 individuals, roughly half of whom are children.

Important lessons learnt and community-driven tools were developed through this project. These play a crucial role in seeking government support and endorsement of a child-centred DRRM approach.



UNICEF and partners inaugurate the first disaster-resilient evacuation centre in the Philippines done through a partnership with the local government of Guiuan and IOM. © UNICEF Philippines/2016/Gay Samson

A sizeable contribution to local community disaster preparedness in 2016 was the completion of a model, disaster-resilient, evacuation centre in Guiuan, Eastern Samar, through a joint partnership

between UNICEF and the International Organization for Migration (IOM). The evacuation centre is a community resource to secure shelter for community members during extreme weather events, ensure accommodation for the most vulnerable people in post-disaster situations and serve as a space for the community to gather and the youth to hold activities during normal periods. A second evacuation centre is being built in Borongon, Eastern Samar, with costs shared by the Department of Social Welfare and Development, through the IOM. The evacuation centres will offer a model for replication throughout the country in both design and community buy-in.

Evidence Generation and Knowledge Management

In 2016, the programme also supported evidence generation and knowledge management to better inform DRR programming and its role in humanitarian action. A multi-country study commissioned by UNICEF Headquarters identified the Philippines as a case study country. The study examined the interface between decentralization and DRR, and the role of LGUs in effective DRR implementation. UNICEF will use the recommendations of this study to support DRR more systematically and effectively within a decentralized local government framework.

In addition, UNICEF East Asia and Pacific Regional Office commissioned a paper to assess the changing nature of UNICEF emergency preparedness and response activities in selected countries of East Asia and the Pacific. The Philippines was included in this review. The recommendations of this paper will be used for a more fit-for-purpose humanitarian strategy in the region.

UNICEF hosted a South-to-South exchange visit with Nepalese government delegates on mainstreaming DRR and climate change adaptation at national and local government levels. The visit supported the replication of relevant lessons, models and practices in Nepal.

Challenges and Ways Forward

While the programme continues to support an enabling environment to better protect children in emergencies, a structural reorganization of the lead government partner for emergencies impeded the approval of other key guidelines, including one on international humanitarian assistance, and a review of existing laws on DRR.

A change in government and the establishment of new partnerships will influence programming for 2017. Climate change action for Filipino children gained momentum, driven by the government's recent ratification of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. A strategy is being developed and is on track to identify UNICEF's unique and comparative role in this agenda in the Philippines. Preliminary assessments suggest UNICEF has a key role in evidence generation, knowledge and skills strengthening within strategic institutions, and reinforcing public and institutional advocacy.

Building on the lessons learnt and initial projects of 2013-2015, the programme designed new PCAs with local CSOs and municipal government bodies to pilot and model child-centred, DRR convergent programmes. Two-year, convergent, child-centred DRR projects were started and are on track in five sites with varying geographical and cultural settings. The project is expected to have 24,695 direct beneficiaries in the 11 target villages and 213,566 indirect beneficiaries in the five towns covered.

An evaluation to be commissioned in 2018 will document the lessons learnt, identify good practices and further inform how the national government, through decentralized structures, can promote and support better, child-centred, DRR programmes. A key partnership initiated with the DILG this year set the stage for better collaboration and coordination, maximizing UNICEF's investment in longer-term, government-led scale-up in the child-centred DRR programming of local governments.

Communication

In 2016, the Communication Section focused on creating awareness on DRR. Features on El Niño and its effects on children, the first disaster-resilient evacuation centre and infographics on how to involve children in preparedness received good responses online and were cited as a regional best practice. The Emergency Preparedness Communication Plan was updated to reflect evolving communication needs. The total number of users reached online with emergency and DRR messages reached 925,000 individuals, and a total of USD 80,000 worth of publicity on TV, print and radio was generated.



Some of the DRR-themed infographics produced for social media and posted regularly, especially before typhoons.

Empowering young people to express their concerns on climate change through art brought creative expressions of dance, song, poetry and artworks during the National Day for Youth in Climate Action. The products of their arts were shared across UNICEF Philippines' social media platforms.

UNICEF's assistance to affected children and their families during Typhoons Sarika and Haima sensitized audiences to UNICEF's need for funds during emergencies. A photographer was placed on location ahead of time to capture the impact of the typhoons and evacuation of families with children.



Young dancer Marilyn participated in the #NowPH2016 Young Artists for Climate Action Workshop, where she joined other artists in raising awareness for climate change. “[Our dance] is about the beauty of nature and the need to take care of it. We need to protect our natural resources for the next generations so that they won’t have to suffer that much from the effects of global warming,” she said. © UNICEF Philippines/2016/Cheryl Galalac

For Peace Month 2016, support was given to the Mindanao Field Office on showcasing peacebuilding efforts through music, arts and culture. A Children, Not Soldiers event and a Peace Concert generated media coverage on children’s role in peacebuilding and their desire for an inclusive peace process that supports the rights of all children. Apart from building the capacity of children, the advocacy strengthened partnerships with key stakeholders, including the MILF Central Committee and the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process. A social media campaign with videos, photo essays and an exercise inviting online audiences to participate highlighted Mindanao as a diverse region with a rich culture.^{24 25}

²⁴ <https://medium.com/@unicefphils/children-from-indigenous-groups-in-mindanao-talk-about-their-culture-8fff3ad99486>

²⁵ <https://medium.com/@unicefphils/children-in-mindanao-share-their-ambitions-994eccd4ab4e>



Carlito Maladian, 9, from Maasim, Sarangani Province, was one of the children featured in a photo essay about the culture of Mindanao. "I've seen how difficult it is to make the T'nalak and how families help and work together to produce this vest. That made me respect the weavers more," he said. © UNICEF Philippines/2016/Louie Pacardo

Monitoring and Evaluation

In 2016 UNICEF Philippines continued humanitarian programmes in Mindanao as part of the Country Office's ongoing programmatic response to instability and conflict. Humanitarian Monitoring and Evaluation functions are now fully integrated into the regular Country Office programme planning, monitoring and reporting systems. A Multiple Indicators Household Survey was carried out in the 36 municipalities that are the focus of the 7th UNICEF Philippines Country Programme. Among the 36 are 21 towns in Mindanao.

Evaluation

No evaluations with a specific humanitarian focus were carried out in 2016. However, an evaluation of the UNICEF Education Programme began in the third quarter of 2016. It focuses on UNICEF's performance in the 36 municipalities that are the focus of the 7th UNICEF Philippines Country Programme. The municipalities include 21 in Mindanao.

Financial Analysis

In 2016, UNICEF received USD13.7 million, including funds carried forward from 2015. This generous funding allowed the Philippines Country Office to surpass many of the original 2016 targets and to pre-position additional emergency supplies in anticipation of sudden deteriorations in the security situation due to conflict or natural hazards. The flexibility of donor contributions to thematic funds was also critical in responding to the evolving humanitarian and recovery needs, and strengthening the links between immediate life-saving or protective humanitarian results, with longer-term

development results, including building capacities and systems for national and local resilience in the face of future disasters and/or emergencies.

Table 1. 2016 Funding Status against Appeal by Sector (in USD)

Sector	Requirements	Funds Available against Appeal as of 31 December 2016*	% Funded
WASH	2,774,000	7,778,515	280%
Education	2,902,000	2,324,328	80%
Health	1,215,000	1,571,825	129%
Nutrition	1,579,000	1,157,790	73%
Child Protection	1,452,000	880,593	61%
HIV/AIDS	148,000	16,932	11%
Total	10,070,000	13,729,983	136%

* Funds reflect programmable amounts, including carry-over funds.

Table 2. Funding Received and Available by 31 December 2016 by Donor and Funding Type (in USD)

Donor Name/Type of Funding	Programme Budget Allotment Reference	Programmable Amount*
I. Humanitarian Funds Received in 2016		
a) Thematic Humanitarian Funds		
See details in Table 3	SM149910	244,528
b) Non-Thematic Humanitarian Funds		
United States Fund for UNICEF	SM160387	344,152
c). Other Pooled Funds – including Common Humanitarian Fund, Humanitarian Response Funds, Emergency Response Funds, UN Trust Fund for Human Security, etc.		
d) Other Types of Humanitarian Funds		
Total Humanitarian Funds Received in 2016		588,679
II. Carry-Over of Humanitarian Funds Available in 2016		
e) Carry-Over Thematic Humanitarian Funds		
Thematic Humanitarian Funds	SM149910	12,744,319
Thematic Humanitarian Funds	SM129906	61,511
f) Carry-over of Non-thematic Humanitarian Funds		
European Commission/EC	SM100451	437,524
Denmark	SM130461	38,635
Estonia	SM130469	2,689
The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	SM130487	67,133
United States Fund for UNICEF	SM130512	46,982
German Committee for UNICEF	SM130518	1,990
United States Fund for UNICEF	SM150040	38,747
Total carry-over non-thematic humanitarian funds		633,700
Total carry-over humanitarian funds (e + f)		13,439,531

Donor Name/Type of Funding	Programme Budget Allotment Reference	Programmable Amount*
III. Other sources (Regular Resources set -aside, diversion of RR - if applicable)		
Total other resources		-
* Programmable amounts of donor contributions, excluding recovery cost .		

Table 3. Thematic Humanitarian Contributions Received in 2016 (in USD)

Donor	Programmable Amount	Total Contribution Amount
Danish Committee for UNICEF	10,036	10,738
United Kingdom Committee for UNICEF	28,653	30,659
United States Fund for UNICEF	32,184	34,437
German Committee for UNICEF	173,655	185,811
Total	244,528	261,645

Future Work Plan

In 2017, UNICEF will continue working with all levels of government, humanitarian and development partners, and affected communities to meet humanitarian needs and enhance the resilience of the most vulnerable children and communities. Activities will build on the achievements and lessons learnt in this reporting period, and focus on the continued strengthening of technical, coordination and system capacities of national partners in mitigating and responding to humanitarian needs.

In 2017, key support will be given to leveraging funds from national budgets to implement the IRR of the Children's Emergency Relief and Protection Act and ensuring that needs assessments and data systems consider age and gender as key to vulnerability. Furthermore, to accelerate humanitarian action and the provision of basic life-saving supplies, UNICEF Philippines will work with partners across sectors on strengthening procurement, warehousing and distribution channels to ensure the timely delivery of prepositioned supplies, especially to hard-to-reach and vulnerable communities.

UNICEF will complete the transition activities in Haiyan-affected areas and sustain the PhATS programme in support of the national sustainable sanitation plan, focusing on strengthening local government capacity and implementation coverage in conflict-affected areas of Mindanao. The activities include WASH governance through the creation of the ARMM Regional Sub-Committee on Water and Sanitation, re-strengthening of Provincial and Municipal WASH Task Forces, and building the DepED's capacity to roll out the WinS 3-Star System.

As part of UNICEF's assistance to Education Cluster coordination, the inclusion of WASH colleagues will be encouraged and WASH indicators added to the DepED RADaR. This will further enhance UNICEF's support to temporary learning spaces. Moreover, SIP rollout will be pursued based on the positive results already documented.

For ECCD in emergencies, the formulation of guidelines for the local implementation of the Children's Emergency Relief and Protection Act will be linked to the work with the DILG on improving the DILG Guide to Action Manual on Preparedness in order to focus on children. This will ensure that the needs of children below 5 years old are better met in preparedness and emergency responses.

UNICEF will also maintain its support to ARMM Health Emergency Management Preparedness capacity-building activities and technical support for developing Modules 2 and 3 of the 5K Cadre/Health Emergency Managers formation and capacity building programme. The modules will be tested this year. Improved routine immunization will be assisted with the expanded coverage of the Reaching Every *Purok* strategy in geographically isolated and difficult-to-access indigenous communities.

The Child Protection Programme will keep its co-lead role in the National Child Protection Working Group and build on the gains achieved in 2016. While mindful of the sociopolitical challenges, in 2017 UNICEF Child Protection will prioritize the following targets: (1) facilitate the activation and strengthening of regional child protection emergency preparedness and response working groups, ensuring that all 17 regions have organized Regional Child Protection Working Groups; (2) sustain monitoring of GCRVs, with at least 75 per cent of reports verified and responded to; and (3) continue building the skills of service providers (government and transitional actors) on psychosocial support, good parenting and case management, among other initiatives, to prevent the (re)association or recruitment of children at risk by armed groups.

Lastly, long-term agreements will be put in place for the provision of critical supplies for response, standby partnerships established and human resource rosters reviewed and updated to aid in an accelerated emergency response, if asked. As co-lead of the WASH and Nutrition Clusters and Child Protection Sub-Cluster, UNICEF will continue to strengthen the government's capacity to coordinate and implement sector preparedness and response, and support execution of Cluster Strategic Plans.

2017 Emergencies and Preparedness



Children participate in a DRR exercise in Barangay Dalnac, a disaster-prone area, in the town of Paracale, Camarines Norte Province. © UNICEF Philippines/2016/Shehzad Noorani

To be prepared for future emergencies, UNICEF maintains supplies for at least 12,000 families. These life-saving supplies such as water kits are pre-positioned in the main island groups of Luzon (in Manila)

and Mindanao (in Cotabato City). Emergency response provisions are also being incorporated into agreements with NGOs that have humanitarian capacities to allow them to use a portion of funds for quick action in the event of a disaster in the area of operations. UNICEF is also working with UN OCHA to improve systems of contingency planning and information management in crisis situations.

Expression of Thanks

UNICEF acknowledges and sincerely appreciates the generous support from all donors who contributed to our humanitarian action in 2016 and helped us respond to the impact of typhoons, floods, conflict and diarrhoea outbreaks. The significant donations enabled UNICEF to achieve results in humanitarian action, contribute to longer-term SDGs and strengthen capacities and systems for national and local resilience to future shocks.

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

Particular thanks go out to donors who provided funding to meet the needs of children affected by conflict and other emergencies in the Philippines. UNICEF is committed to continuing assistance to children affected by natural disasters and conflicts in 2017, while cognizant of the need to bridge the humanitarian development divide.

CASE STUDIES

Case Study 1. Bringing Early Learning to Indigenous Children: Masepla Transitory Site Experience

Top-Level Results

In partnership with Western Mindanao State University's (WMSU) Peace and Human Security Institute, UNICEF implemented the Zamboanga Education Project to ensure that 3 to 4-year-old children in Masepla transitory site have access to early learning services and that parents and youth are provided with knowledge and awareness on the importance of ECCD.

The intervention ensured that 293 indigenous children aged 3-4 years accessed and enjoyed early learning opportunities on site. Parenting sessions raised awareness and appreciation among parents of the importance of ECCD. Children and youth were also mobilized to do a series of theatrical performances in the community to promote the value of early learning as key to development.

Issue/Background

On 9 September 2013, armed conflict broke out between the Moro National Liberation Front and government forces, displacing 119,000 people in Zamboanga City. Around 10,000 homes were destroyed, and numerous schools used as evacuation centres. Because families could not return to the areas affected by the siege, the Department of Social Welfare and Development established eight transitory sites in the city while permanent housing was being built. The largest of the transitory sites is Masepla. With this move to the transitory site, only 63 of 470 children aged 3-4 years old had access to the nearest day care centre, a 3-kilometre walk from the site. This day care centre could not accommodate all the children in need. Thus UNICEF and WMSU opened eight day care centres at the Masepla Transitory Site to serve the children who required early learning.

Rationale

UNICEF's programme in Mindanao aims to address the significant inequity in access to and quality of basic social services, including education for children and women. It also aims to address the impact of conflict, disaster and poverty on the most vulnerable children, spanning crisis prevention, response, recovery and longer-term development.

The Zamboanga Siege resulted in problems such as food insecurity, income poverty and poor access to social services for the directly affected families. Without effective and intensive interventions to quickly meet the needs of at-risk children, the negative cycle of poverty, instability and deprivation would pervade.



The Masepla Transitory Site in Barangay Mampang, Zamboanga City, has been the temporary abode of families displaced by the Zamboanga Siege.

©UNICEF Philippines/2016/TNakajima

UNICEF tied up with WMSU's Peace and Human Security Institute to implement the Zamboanga Education Project at Masepla to ensure that children aged 3-4 years old at the site had access to day

care centres or supervised neighbourhood play, and to make parents and young people (as potential first parents) aware of the benefits of ECCD and skilled in early stimulation of children. The project was undertaken from October 2015 to March 2016.

Strategy and Implementation

WMSU asked the Zamboanga City Social Welfare and Development Office for permission to use available bunkhouses at Masepla as day care centres and safe supervised neighbourhood play areas. The City Social Welfare and Development Office then helped negotiate with the chairmen of *Barangay* Mampang, where Masepla is located, and of nearby *barangays* (villages) to provide day care workers for the site and to cover the additional honorariums for these day care workers.

Using ECCD materials from the City Social Welfare and Development Office and UNICEF, WMSU facilitated parenting sessions to make parents more aware of the positive impacts of ECCD and train them in early stimulation, thus garnering support for children's learning before and after day care.

A communication plan was formulated and implemented in cooperation with the City Social Welfare and Development Office and influential *barangay* and tribal leaders. The plan helped identify the issues concerning children, particularly in the early years, and explored key messages and ways of communicating information to different stakeholders, including *barangay* officials, parents, young people and others, with the intention of reinforcing positive parenting practices, early childhood simulation and care, and a positive change in attitude amongst community leaders. Masepla Theatre Guild, a community theatre group composed of children and youth from the transitional sites, delivered key messages that evolved through the development of the communication plan. The Guild engaged vast numbers of community members in a lively, culturally appropriate and sensitive manner.

Resources Required/Allocated

Seven staff were engaged to manage the UNICEF-WMSU partnership. One project officer supervised the overall project delivery. Two community organizers worked closely at the transitory site and managed the implementation of activities. An information management assistant ensured accurate data collection and the use of the data by the Education Cluster in prioritizing and coordinating the response activities in the transition site. A finance assistant managed the project finance. A monitoring and evaluation assistant and a logistics assistant ensured the quality of project outputs and outcomes. The total project cost was PHP4.33 million or approximately USD 90,000 over the project period.

Progress and Results

Through WMSU, UNICEF interventions at Masepla led to the following results:

- Establishment of eight day care centres at Masepla to ensure access to early learning and development activities, and to support the transition of the children to kindergarten for School Year 2016-2017. In total, 293 children aged 3-4 years old benefitted.
- Eight sessions with 40 parents were conducted, focusing on the importance of ECCD, particularly on early learning. All the



This child-friendly space gives children a place to play. It was eventually used as a day care centre.
©UNICEF Philippines/2016/JRAHPolita

children of these parents were registered in the day care centres. The parents took an active role in community clean-ups and promoted the access of children, especially young children, to health and other services—all of which contributed to early development.

- Forty parents were equipped to make culturally sensitive children's toys, crafted using local materials. One example was the creation of puppets made of tissue paper and bottles as cars. Through toy making, the parents were also encouraged to better engage with and play with their children at home, further strengthening the relationship between parent and child.
- An estimated 250 young people and older children were direct monthly beneficiaries of 'edutainment' activities to raise their awareness on the importance of education, early learning and early stimulation. Performances were conducted quarterly.

Lessons Learnt

The major lessons learnt from the implementation of this project are:

- The engagement of *barangay* and city LGUs early on in the implementation of a project like this is crucial to increasing and sustaining ECCD initiatives. Raising the awareness of key stakeholders from city and *barangay* LGUs on the irreversible impact of poor ECCD ensured the provision of additional day care workers to the transitory site and covering additional costs.
- Continuous and intensive communication on the benefits of early childhood education and stimulation motivated the parents to send their children to the day care centres established. Communication initiatives benefitted from being culturally appropriate, lively, entertaining and sensitive to the community's needs, attitudes and behaviours.
- Children and parents make the best advocates. The use of community theatre was especially helpful, with community members being the very ones that delivered key facts, answered questions, dispelled myths and engaged the audience in the performance.
- Consecutive, regular parenting sessions helped reinforce positive messages, create a safe space for sharing and learning, and facilitated the delivery of 'building' blocks of information.

Moving Forward

Although faced with significant political and cultural challenges and limited funding, the initiative introduced and implemented at the Masepla Transitory Site gave families and children access to basic social services, most importantly early education. Intense advocacy with the LGUs at different administrative levels will hopefully gain their buy-in to the project and sustain their financial support for continued intervention and larger annual budget contributions in the future. It will be important for UNICEF to continue monitoring the outcomes and provide technical assistance when requested.

Case Study 2. UNICEF Builds Disaster-Resilient Evacuation Centre

Top-Level Result

A disaster-resilient evacuation centre was constructed to serve children and families at risk during emergencies.

Issue/Background

In November 2013, Typhoon Yolanda (international name Haiyan), one of the most powerful typhoons ever recorded, made landfall in Guiuan, Eastern Samar, before sweeping through the Visayas region in Central Philippines. The typhoon caused extreme loss of lives and widespread damage to property. Many victims of Typhoon Yolanda perished in evacuation centres.

In 2016, UNICEF partnered with the IOM and the local government of Guiuan to construct the country's first disaster-resilient evacuation centre. The evacuation centre is part of an effort to improve community-based resources for securing shelter for community members during extreme weather events and make accommodation available for the most vulnerable people post-disaster, until a more appropriate and durable solution is provided. It will also serve as space for community gathering and for youth activities during normal periods.

Rationale

The Philippines, an archipelagic nation of more than 100 million people, faces more intense typhoons, dramatic changes in rainfall patterns, sea level rise and increasing temperatures. Climate change will have serious implications for ecosystems and impacts on food security, health, public infrastructure, human settlement and the country's efforts for sustainable development.

For the Philippines, a proactive disaster risk management approach is very important, particularly for children, who are most vulnerable to the impact of extreme weather events and make up just under half of the total population. One response to this impending threat is the need for safe, resilient, evacuation centres in very vulnerable, hazard-prone communities, particularly to address displacement caused by natural hazards and extreme weather events.

The pilot community evacuation centre is the first in a network of safe evacuation centres being established in Eastern Samar through a partnership among UNICEF, IOM, the local government of Guiuan and the Department of Social Welfare and Development. The evacuation centres will be a local community-based resource in the event of evacuation and a viable option for families unable to leave communities because of limiting factors such as livelihood and poverty.

The multi-purpose evacuation centre can shelter up to 350 people during extreme weather events (flood, typhoons, etc.) and accommodate the most vulnerable people post-disaster, until a more appropriate and durable solution is provided. It will also serve as a space for community gathering and youth activities during normal periods. In the aftermath of Typhoon Yolanda, an assessment found that only 8 per cent (53) of all evacuation centres in Samar were still useable; 26 per cent had been completely destroyed and had suffered catastrophic damage, requiring reconstruction²⁶. One in five evacuation centres in Samar were located less than 50 metres from the coastline, potentially increasing their vulnerability and exposure to major hazards.

²⁶ Summary on Evacuation Centres Assessments conducted by IOM in Haiyan-affected areas and ongoing preparedness activities for safe evacuation, IOM, 2013.

Strategy and Implementation

The evacuation centre in Guiuan was officially opened on 19 April 2016. It can withstand category 5 winds and magnitude 8 earthquakes. It used international best practices in disaster-resilient design for evacuation centres and was built using local construction technologies and locally available materials. This ensured that the structure could be copied at other sites across the Philippines.

The building, called the *Sirungan ha Guiuan* (Shelter of Guiuan), was designed with ample lighting to



minimize bullying and gender-based violence in crowded emergency situations. It has ramps and handrails for people with disabilities and the elderly. It also has a playground and a mural designed and painted by the children of Guiuan.

The design maximizes natural light and ventilation, and allows space for the registration and information sharing needed during mass evacuations. It has storage supplies for water, generators and fuel.

The Evacuation Centre stands ready before the opening ceremony. The Evacuation Centre will be provide a safe community space for the Municipality of Guiuan before, during and after an emergency © UNICEF Philippines/2016/Gay Samson

Most importantly, the building is a viable alternative to using schools as evacuation centres during emergencies, which disrupts the schooling of large numbers of children for extended periods.

A lessons learnt document and consequently a guide to developing resilient evacuation centres will be prepared in 2017. This document will capture human interest stories and learnings from the planning, design, construction and community engagement for the Guiuan Community Evacuation Centre in a post-disaster context, and be an advocacy tool that promotes the good practice of developing a network of disaster-resilient community buildings-cum-evacuation centres. It will provide practical guidance to the target audience for implementing key DRRM processes in the planning, design and construction of community buildings.

Resources Required/Allocated

The total cost of the initiative was USD 500,000, covering the construction of the evacuation centre, preparatory activities, materials and international and local technical support. The Guiuan LGU supplied the land.

Progress and Results

The evacuation building in Guiuan was officially opened on 19 April 2016. Valuable lessons were learnt in the community mobilization, planning, design and construction phases of the programme. For example, to identify the most appropriate site for construction, municipal and *barangay* hazard maps were required. These hazard maps needed to be developed and informed by the community, including children, and the final products shared and understood by *barangay* officials. The maps not only yielded information on the best location for the evacuation centre, but also identified safe routes for evacuation and engaged the community in the important first steps of ownership.

To support the capacity development of the community, a series of training orientations were conducted on the MEND Guide²⁷ for planning mass evacuations during natural disasters, and simulation exercises were held with government officials and key community leaders.

Initial key lessons learnt from the construction of the Guiuan evacuation centre are already being used in building a second evacuation centre under the partnership of UNICEF, IOM and the Department of Social Welfare and Development with the local government of Borongon in Eastern Samar. This evacuation centre will be completed by July 2017.

Lesson Learnt

In 2017, a lessons learnt document and consequently a guide to developing resilient evacuation centres for local government authorities, the DILG and the Department of Social Welfare and Development, will be produced. This resource will be a useful reference for LGUs grappling with the challenge to provide safe, resilient spaces for their communities as disasters, worsened by climate change, are expected to become more severe.

VIDEO: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J9iGn9mfP4M>

Case Study 3. Management of SAM in the Philippines: From Emergency-Focused Modelling to National Policy and Government Scale-up

Top-Level Results

As one of the first in the Southeast Asian and Pacific Region to have SAM policies and guidelines in place, the Philippine Government has committed to integrating services for management of children with SAM into the routine healthcare system. In line with the country's global commitments to improve nutrition, the DOH, with technical support from UNICEF, allotted USD3.3 million in its 2016 investment plans for the scale-up of SAM management services, targeting 34,000 children with SAM in 16 priority provinces. At the sub-national level, UNICEF's support in 2014 resulted in the screening of more than 400,000 children for acute malnutrition. Of the 400,000, more than 2,300 children were admitted to therapeutic programmes, and almost 1,300 children recovered from SAM in 2015.

Background

The Philippines has enjoyed a respectable pace of economic growth in recent years. However, its nutrition indicators are still lagging, which reflects major inequities in both health and nutrition. While the 2015 Global Nutrition Report shows the Philippines to be on course towards achieving the stunting target, the country is 'off course' in reaching the targets for wasting (for children under 5 years) and anaemia (among women of reproductive age) by 2025. With an estimated 4.2 million children (33.4 per cent) under 5 years being stunted, the Philippines ranks among the top 10 countries globally in stunting. It is also among the top five countries in the East Asia and Pacific in terms of wasting, whose trend is still increasing. Furthermore, the Philippines is the third most disaster-prone country in the world, with high vulnerability not only to typhoons but also flash flooding, volcanoes and earthquakes.

²⁷ Mass Evacuation in Natural Disasters (MEND) Guide is a comprehensive guidance document developed under the lead of IOM by request of several member states (including the Philippines) and national disaster management authorities to provide reference and practical guidance on emergency evacuation planning and response. An online version is available at <http://www.globalccmcluster.org/tools-and-guidance/publications/mend-guide>

High Burden of Wasting

In the Philippines, wasting has become more prevalent in the last 10 years despite substantial economic growth. According to the 2013 National Nutrition Survey, wasting increased from 7.3 per

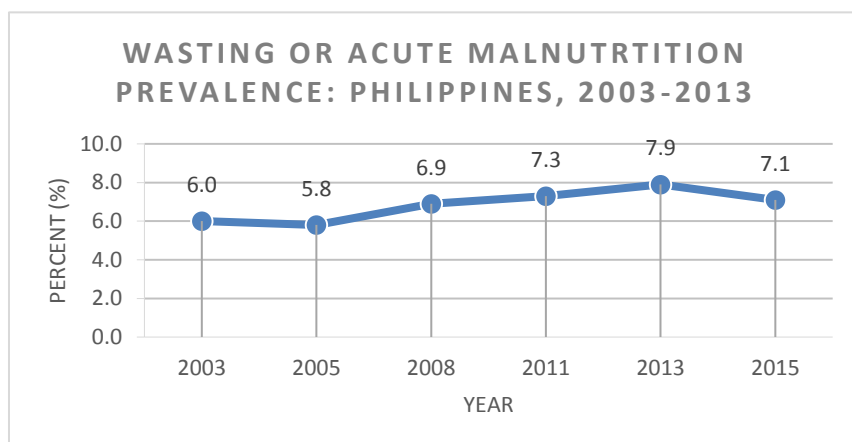


Figure 1. Increasing prevalence of national wasting from 2003 to 2015

cent in 2011 to 7.9 per cent in 2013 (Figure 1). This translates to nearly 1.5 million

wasted children under 5 years of age, a third (estimated 500,000) of whom are severely wasted. The same survey noted regional variations for wasting in children 0-5 years of age, reflecting rising inequities across the country. Wasting is a major concern in the Philippines particularly as it is a highly disaster-prone country and the risk of developing wasting increases during humanitarian emergencies.

Lack of Policies, Standard Protocols, Systems and Capacity for Management of Acute Malnutrition

In the 1970s, treating a child for malnutrition in the Philippines meant admission to a malnutrition ward, a dedicated area in a hospital that fully accommodates the special needs of children with malnutrition. Over time, hospital priorities shifted away from malnutrition, leading to the deterioration or subsequent phasing out of the malnutrition wards. Furthermore, treatment of malnutrition was largely hospital-based, with clinicians using outdated protocols. Over the years LGUs have resorted to supplementary feeding initiatives at school or community level to treat wasting in young or school-aged children. These initiatives have been managed by school or health workers who are neither trained on adequate, evidence-based management of wasted children, nor equipped with the necessary tools to identify or report such cases.

With undernutrition responsible for almost 45 per cent of deaths among children under 5 years of age worldwide²⁸, Lancet 2008 and the 2013 Maternal and Child Nutrition series^{1,29} emphasized the burden of undernutrition in low- to middle-income countries and called for the need to expand beyond outdated treatment guidelines to effectively treat malnutrition.

In 2011, to institutionalize community-based management of acute malnutrition (CMAM) as part of health systems strengthening, the Nutrition Cluster, supported by UNICEF, started drafting national guidelines for SAM management in the Philippines. A consultative workshop engaged various stakeholders, including DOH staff and members of the CMAM Task Force of the Philippines, to integrate generic protocols into the Philippine Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition

²⁸ Black, Robert E., et al., 'Maternal and child undernutrition and overweight in low-income and middle-income countries', *The Lancet*, vol. 382, no. 9890, 3 August 2013, pp. 427-451.

²⁹ Black, Robert E., et al., 'Maternal and child undernutrition: global and regional exposures and health consequences', *The Lancet*, vol. 371, no. 9608, 19 January 2008, pp. 243-260.

(PIMAM) protocols. However, because of the unavailability of essential commodities in the country, procurement concerns by the DOH and lack of a defined operational component of the PIMAM protocols, the DOH could not adopt the guidelines.



Prof. Michael Golden and Yvonne Grellety help the DOH, UNICEF and partners in drafting the Philippine Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition Guidelines in 2011. ©DOHPhilippines/2011/RGGalera

Between 2011 and 2015, the Philippines was repeatedly affected by disasters (e.g., Typhoons Washi, Bopha and Haiyan; the Bohol earthquake; and armed conflicts in Zamboanga City and Central Mindanao), where the protocols were carried out to provide lifesaving care to affected children. In addition to emergencies, the draft PIMAM protocol was also implemented in the urban development context of Davao City in 2014. Implementing SAM

management programmes in various settings in the country over the last seven years resulted in building local capacity in the programme areas and generated the local evidence needed to support national advocacy. Though these experiences successfully gave lifesaving care to the children with SAM largely in emergency-affected contexts, they also highlighted the critical gaps in the lack of national policy, DOH-endorsed standard protocols, systems and capacity essential for sustaining these initiatives and scaling up services for children with SAM in every *barangay*.

Development and Endorsement of National Protocols and Policy for Management of SAM in Children under 5 Years



Supported by technical experts from Valid International, CMAM Working Group members build consensus using new evidence and update the 2011 draft PIMAM guidelines. ©UNICEF Philippines/2014/RGGalera

When Super Typhoon Haiyan devastated parts of the Philippines in November 2013, the SAM management programme was impactful in saving the lives of around 1,000 children

with SAM as part of its strategic response plan. However, this again highlighted the lack of a national policy, standard protocols, systems and capacity essential for sustaining and scaling up essential services for children with SAM. The experience from the Haiyan response, coupled with the evidence-based advocacy by the Nutrition Cluster and partners, resulted in greater awareness and demand from the LGUs on improving access to and availability of essential services for children with SAM.

To address the high burden of SAM, the Philippine Nutrition Cluster, through its CMAM Working Group, prioritized the urgent need to develop national protocols and policy on the management of SAM for children under 5 years of age. The broad objective was to improve the access and availability of life-saving services for children with SAM by institutionalizing SAM management within the national and local health systems, both under emergency and non-emergency settings.

Drawing from experiences at the LGU level during emergencies and disasters, the DOH, with technical support from UNICEF and in consultation with partners and experts, led the development of the national guidelines for endorsement. In parallel, DOH and UNICEF teams worked on formulating a draft scale-up plan to implement the SAM management programmes in a phased approach. This process involved a series of technical discussions with DOH programme officers on essential supply requirements, product registration, caseload calculations, costing projections and identification of priority areas.

The necessary consensus was built through a consultative and participative process involving national and local actors, and defining procedures, tools, and indicators. This led to ownership and endorsement of the national guidelines, policy and plans. This is major progress achieved by the government towards integrating SAM management services into the routine health system.

The National Guidelines for the Management of SAM for children under 5 years were signed by the Secretary of Health on 1 October 2015 and launched on 5 November 2015. In December 2015, the DOH issued Administrative Order 2015-055, its highest policy instrument for the health and nutrition sectors, which sets the policy and strategic framework to guide the adoption and implementation of the National Guidelines for the Management of SAM for children under 5 years at the local level.

These actions show the commitment of the government in achieving universal healthcare and integrating the services for managing children with SAM into the routine healthcare system. In line with the country's commitments to Scaling Up Nutrition, the Second International Conference on Nutrition and the World Health Assembly Resolution on Maternal, Infant and Young Child Nutrition, the DOH allotted USD3.3 million in its 2016 investment plans for the scale-up of SAM management services targeting 34,000 children with SAM in 16 priority provinces.

Lessons Learnt from SAM National Protocols and Policy Development

A number of lessons were learnt during the development of a national protocol, policies and costed plans in the Philippines.

1. Updating and developing national guidelines is a critical step towards building consensus and gaining support for SAM management programmes from all actors within and outside the government.
2. Protocol development should be participatory and consultative, involving both national and sub-national levels, to ensure ownership of the programme and protocols.
3. For the government to endorse the SAM management protocols and plan scale-up, it is important to include both technical and operational components.
4. International standards and protocols need to be subjected to consultation, adapted to country realities and contextualized in order to improve acceptance and ownership.

5. The development of practical and user-friendly protocols is critical. Clarity for end users of the protocol should be ensured.
6. Simplified tools and job aids are a key component of the protocols. Protocols should be a product of consensus and testing at sub-national and national levels.
7. SAM management protocols should address all four components of CMAM, and management of acute malnutrition protocols need to be integrated right from the beginning of protocol development.
8. Protocols need to be developed for emergency and non-emergency contexts for both SAM and management of acute malnutrition.

Moving Forward

The DOH, UNICEF and the Nutrition Cluster are working towards countrywide scale-up of the National Guidelines for Management of SAM and are developing a detailed scale-up plan. Phase 1 of the scale-up plan is to implement the guidelines in 16 priority provinces starting 2016. Key components of the scale-up plan include: (1) dissemination of the national policy and protocols at the local level; (2) capacity building of trainers and implementers at national and local levels; (3) establishing procurement systems of essential SAM management commodities; (4) establishing monitoring and reporting systems, including bottleneck analysis; (5) advocacy and communication for effective community mobilization and institutionalization of SAM management services in the pre-service and in-service curriculum of service providers; and (6) linking SAM management services with the conditional cash transfer programme and the national health insurer PhilHealth's out- and in-patient insurance package.