



Melemaat Primary School held a back to school fair for students, teachers and parents to encourage students to return to school after Cyclone Pam, and during which psycho-social counselling was done. As classrooms and learning materials were destroyed at the school, UNICEF donated four tents, two schools-in-a-box, one recreation kit and 570 backpacks containing school supplies.

Credit: UNICEF/2015/SOKHIN

Cyclone Pam Humanitarian Situation Report 15

unicef 

14 – 22 April 2015

Highlights

- 1,535 affected girls and boys in Shefa Province now have access to temporary learning spaces
- 3,468 early childhood- and primary-aged children including children with disabilities received learning materials and school supplies
- 20,312 children (81% of target) immunised against measles & rubella, received Vitamin A and de-worming in Shefa, Sanma and Tafea Provinces.
- 44% of targeted mothers of children aged 0 - 23 months received infant and young child feeding counselling in Sanma and Tafea Provinces. 6 malnutrition cases identified in Tanna for treatment.
- 43% of the affected population reached with water, sanitation and hygiene supplies through cluster coordination led by the government with UNICEF support.
- 26 per cent of targeted youths oriented as peer educators on the prevention of violence.
- Birth registration campaign launched; on Efate island with 134 children aged 0 – 18 registered.
- 2nd Phase Harmonised Assessment Report released.
- **Tuvalu:** Early Childhood Centres received 1,000 drawing books & other school supplies.

UNICEF needs US\$1.5 million to meet appeal gap

Vanuatu:

166,600 people on 22 islands affected, including **82,000** children

60,000 children targeted by Education Cluster (Early Childhood, Primary and Secondary)

At least **22,000** children need temporary safe learning spaces

Mobile birth registration campaign targets **7000**: new registration & damaged & lost certificates replaced, new registration

20,312 children under 5 years of age reached with vaccination, Vitamin A and de-worming

Kiribati: UNICEF Officer deployed from Fiji to support recovery

Overview

UNICEF has now secured 80 per cent of the funds required to deliver life-saving aid to thousands of children and their families in Vanuatu and other affected countries. An additional US\$1.5 million is needed to provide access to clean water, sanitation and hygiene, life-saving health and nutrition interventions, and education and protection during the remainder of 2015.

The shipment, allocation, distribution and monitoring of supplies to affected children, women and men to different affected islands is crucial to the response; a challenge is that commercial transport is extremely expensive.

UNICEF and other humanitarian partners continue to work closely with the Government of Vanuatu's National Disaster Management Office (NDMO), sector Ministries and humanitarian partners to implement the immediate response plan, with some early recovery activities having already begun.

The Second Phase Harmonised Assessment Report was completed and released and is the basis for revised project sheets and a harmonised action plan for remaining humanitarian needs and early recovery; this will be ready by the end of April. UNICEF has continued to support the Government-led humanitarian clusters to produce the s to support rehabilitation efforts through various channels, including the Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) requested by the Government of Vanuatu.

Humanitarian leadership and coordination

The NDMO continues to coordinate the response with support from various agencies. The United Nations has set up an online Humanitarian Response page (<https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/operations/vanuatu>) as the central repository of documents generated in support of the coordination effort related to Tropical Cyclone Pam.

General coordination and response planning support is being provided to the Government by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA). Humanitarian affairs officers are providing support to the NDMO on donor relations, reporting, information management and public information. The Government-led Second Phase Harmonized Assessment was finalized on 8 April and a comprehensive report issued on 16 April.

UNICEF will continue to ensure that needs and gaps relating to children and women are adequately reflected in the PDNA to be issued on 23 April. The findings of PDNA report will inform the Joint Action Plan for humanitarian response and early recovery, and the Government Response Plan that will be finalised by 27 April.

Start of humanitarian response: 14 March 2015

Estimated Affected Population: 166,600 (Source: Flash Appeal launched on 24 March 2015)

	Total	Male	Female
Total Affected Population	166,600	83,300	83,300
Children Affected (Under 18) ¹	82,000	41,000	41,000
Children Under Five ²	29,332	15,282	14,050
Children 6 to 23 Months ³	8,800	4,580	4,220
Pregnant Women ⁴	7,650	N/A	7,650

¹ The NDMO estimates the number of affected children to be 70,000. However, the total number of children residing in the affected provinces exceeds this estimate.

² Number of children aged under 5 in five affected provinces (SOURCE: NDMO projected figures in 2013).

³ Number of children aged 6-23 months in five affected provinces (SOURCE: NDMO projected figures in 2013 & WHO Emergency tool 6.3 Ref Values, March 2012).

⁴ Number of pregnant women in five affected provinces (SOURCE: NDMO projected figures in 2013 & WHO Emergency tool 6.3 Ref Values, March 2012).

UNICEF response



Education

Education infrastructure asset assessments completed for the provinces of Shefa, Tafea, Torba and Malampa conclude that damage to infrastructure in Torba and Malampa was minimal. According to the asset assessment on Shefa Province, the Ministry of Education and Training has confirmed that 50 per cent of schools have been affected by Tropical Cyclone Pam, with one totally destroyed and nine more severely damaged. Reports from Tafea record 180 classrooms destroyed, another 75 suffering major damage and almost 9,000 primary-school aged children affected. Education assessments indicate that approximately 60,000 school-aged children from early childhood, primary and secondary education have been affected by the Cyclone (revised from the initial estimate of 30,000). Education in Emergencies supplies are urgently needed, including tents, tarpaulins, and teaching and learning materials. Plastic boxes are also needed to safely store these supplies and support school reopening.

Through UNICEF support to the Ministry of Education and Training, 10 per cent of the 16,000 targeted girls and boys (1,535 girls and boys) now have access to temporary learning spaces, while 15 per cent of the 22,540 targeted early childhood- and primary-aged children (3,468 girls and boys) have now received learning materials and school supplies in Shefa Province. This includes children living with disabilities. The distribution of temporary learning spaces and learning materials and supplies is now a priority to enable more children on Tanna in Tafea Province to return to school.

UNICEF continues to prioritize psycho-social support for children, with 20 education service providers at both early childhood and primary level having received orientation in psychosocial support and disaster risk reduction messaging. In collaborating with the Ministry of Education and Training and the Ministry of Justice & Community Services, UNICEF has continued its support through a training of trainers orientation attended by 25 teachers and frontline child protection workers. Attendants included representatives from the Early Childhood Development Center, Curriculum Development Coordinators, NGOs, Vanuatu Youth Council and Faith Based Organizations. The outcome included draft modules that will be used in schools and communities to orient caregivers on the utilization of the newly produced psycho-social communication materials for children. They were also tasked to develop a "communication for development" approach to these modules, facilitating children, youth and caregivers to be agents of change in their own lives and in their communities. The first implementation will take place in mid-May on Tafea province and Shefa outer islands.

Challenges related to the use of commercial shipping for inter-island transportation of education materials and learning supplies have delayed the delivery of much-needed materials to over 10,000 children in Tafea Province. Early this week, education materials and supplies provided to the Ministry of Education and Training by UNICEF for approximately 10,000 children in Tafea Province are finally being shipped to Tanna. Accompanying the shipment are UNICEF Education Specialists who will be orienting approximately 70 representatives from schools on Tanna from 20 April including Ministry of Education and Training representatives, Zone Curriculum Advisors and Head Teachers on setting up tents for temporary learning spaces, and on the use of kits including Early Childhood Development Kits, Recreational Kits and School-In-Boxes.



Health and Nutrition

A total of 20,312 children aged 6 – 59 months have been vaccinated against measles in Shefa, Sanma and Tafea Provinces, through UNICEF support. To date, 81 per cent of the 25,000 targeted children aged under five have been reached with measles vaccination, vitamin A supplementation, deworming drugs and soap in Efate, Santo and Tanna. Children in Santo and Tanna also received a dose of rubella vaccine. UNICEF is working with a range of partners to support these vaccination activities, including the Ministry of Health, the World Health Organization (WHO), Save the Children and World Vision.

To date, cold chain equipment in nine health facilities has been restored to functional status after fridges and solar panels were repaired. With UNICEF support, adequate new-born care kits and services have been restored in 10 of the affected primary health care facilities.

To date, through UNICEF support to the Ministry of Health, and in partnership with Save the Children, 2,831 mothers of children under 24 months of age had received basic infant and young child feeding (IYCF) practices counselling in Sanma and Tafea Provinces. At least 44 per cent of the 6,500 targeted caregivers of children aged 0 – 23 months have received IYCF counselling.

Results from the Government-led multi-cluster assessment indicate that many health facilities are not yet fully functional. The services most affected are Maternal and Child Health (MCH) and neonatal care. Through interagency coordination with WHO and UNFPA, and in consultation with the Ministry of Health, UNICEF is consulting on short-, medium- and long-term strategies to ensure MCH services are re-established. Strategies include the provision of temporary facilities, supplies, human resources and training.

In agreement with the Ministry of Health, UNICEF has enhanced its current partnership with Save the Children on the facilitated distribution system of UNICEF Maternal, Newborn, Child Health and Nutrition emergency supplies and drugs to village level. By utilising the Village Aid Posts system established with support from Save the Children, the replenishment of supplies across affected health facilities will be immediate. This will facilitate the resumption of basic primary healthcare services.



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

The results of the WASH sector assessments indicated that two thirds of communities surveyed had severe WASH needs requiring immediate attention. Communities report extensive damage to water systems, and more than 50 per cent of the communities reported access to less than 3 litres of drinking water per day. Wind and debris destroyed rainwater catchment intake areas (roofs) and gutters. Fallen trees and landslides damaged piped water systems, especially those that were older, or poorly constructed and maintained. Debris, trees, rocks and sedimentation blocked spring water intakes. Power failure and mechanical damage caused pumped water systems to fail. Bacteriological water quality tests showed poor water quality at all sites tested outside Port Vila, showing a need for water treatment prior to drinking. Less than half of households were reported as using a form of water treatment.

Assessments showed the destruction of nearly all sanitation superstructures, especially those made of bush materials, and there is little material available for rebuilding. Women, children and vulnerable people now lack privacy, and in some cases, safe bathing facilities. There has been a substantial increase in open defecation and the sharing of latrines by multiple people due to a lack of private toilets. Nearly half of the households have access to soap, but less than 30 per cent are using it. Two thirds of communities did not have access to sanitary protection materials for girls and women. Based on assessments conducted by other clusters, damage to water, sanitation, and hygiene services at schools and health care facilities is expected to be similar.

To date, emergency distribution of water, sanitation, and hygiene supplies has reached an estimated 43 per cent of the 110,000 targeted people (46,910 people) through cluster interventions led by the Government with UNICEF support. The WASH cluster is working with the Shelter cluster to prioritize tarpaulin distribution to the Shepherd Islands and Aniwa as a quick fix to restore rainwater harvesting, and the NDMO will monitor their use.

UNICEF has directly contributed to the provision of water, sanitation and hygiene supplies to 19,077 targeted people (including children). Through UNICEF support to the International Medical Corps, 3,577 people in North and West Ambrym have been provided with WASH and dignity kits. ADRA is also supporting 558 households in South East Ambrym with WASH and dignity kits, supplied by UNICEF. UNICEF has released WASH supplies to Care, which will support an estimated 3,800 households on Tanna.

The WASH Cluster has agreed on key health and hygiene messages with the Health Cluster for use by health and hygiene promotion teams. UNICEF is supporting the development of Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials for printing and distribution through partners.

The Gender and Protection Cluster has provided the WASH Cluster with key advice on protection issues. Key considerations have been the development of specific messages for children so that they do not drink unsafe water, and greater attention to the restoration of latrine superstructures for privacy and protection. Providing sanitation privacy is one of the first priorities for the WASH cluster. WASH in schools and healthcare facilities requires greater attention to restore protective environments for children, women and vulnerable groups. The WASH cluster has appointed a gender and protection focal point to support this mainstreaming effort.

Because of the centrality of information to the coordination of emergency WASH response activities in Vanuatu, the WASH Cluster received a full time Information Management Officer to coordinate intra-cluster information flow through UNICEF support. The Officer is working with all of the agencies implementing WASH activities to collect and analyse data, to provide much-needed feedback on status of interventions, progress made and the available gaps. The Officer will provide this support to the Cluster until 13 May 2015.



Child Protection

Reports demonstrate a need for amnesty on fees for the replacement of civil documents including birth registration documentation. A key gap identified also is in the area of psycho-social support, particularly to children.

Some 26 per cent of the targeted youths (100 youths targeted), both girls and boys, have received orientation as peer educators on 16 and 17 April on prevention of violence with UNICEF support, in partnership with the Ministry of Youth Development and Training. This training is being rolled out in partnership with the Vanuatu National Youth Council and the Just Play Sports for Development Programme. Peer educators will use recreational kits to give psycho-social support to girls and boys in Shefa, Tafea and Malampa Provinces

With UNICEF support, 17 per cent of the 350 targeted service providers, including front line child protection officials, have received orientation on child protection in emergencies. This will facilitate outreach and the provision of psycho-social support to children and adolescents.

UNICEF supported the Ministry of Internal Affairs in piloting birth registration in Tanoliu Village on North Efate on 16 April, where 134 children (79 males and 55 females) aged 0 – 18 were provided with replacement birth registration documents. A total of 228 people – mostly children – have been provided with replacement birth registration documents. This will enable families that have lost children's registration documentation to begin accessing essential services. The full roll out of birth registration will begin with a nation-wide multi-media campaign promoting free birth registration on 23 April, with UNICEF support to the Ministries of Justice & Community Services, Internal Affairs, Youth Development and Sports, and the Just Play Sports for Development Programme. Fifteen islands across all six provinces of Vanuatu will be covered by the campaign, which will begin in Tanna Island, with six civil registry and vital statistics teams being deployed to mobile registration centres.

Communication for Development

The UNICEF Communications Team is supporting the Child Protection programme's national Birth Registration campaign, which is being launched on 23 April in Tanna. Posters, pamphlets, radio spots, SMS texts and festivals are being organized, together with the facilitation of community outreach through Just Play and other volunteers and community workers. The campaign will cover 15 islands across six provinces providing birth registration services through mobile teams deployed in communities to issue birth certificates (including new registration and re-issuance).

UNICEF is supporting the Health and WASH Cluster programmes with radio spots and the printing of integrated IEC materials. Materials will also be disseminated through existing networks including Just Play. The team is also exploring the use of SMS texts for awareness messaging.

Communication/External Relations

During the week of 13 April, Campbell Live (a New Zealand TV crew) visited Vanuatu and covered stories on UNICEF supplies and logistics as well as follow up stories on education, nutrition and immunization.

The FIFA Vice President/Oceanic Football Confederation President met with UNICEF, Australian Aid, New Zealand Aid, the Vanuatu Football Federation and Just Play Program representatives. He also visited affected sporting sites and communities in Efate and Santo.

The Champions League tournament is ongoing in Fiji with the finals to be held on 26 April, where the last push for fundraising appeal will be held with UNICEF and OFC.

The UNICEF communications team will also be covering the Ready to Use Supplemental Food (RUSF), a high-protein and high-energy, peanut-based paste used for the treatment of severely undernourished children, expected to arrive in Port Vila on 19 April.

The UNICEF Australian National Committee Director visited the UNICEF Vanuatu Field Office to discuss key priorities and push to support further fundraising and visibility in Australia.

The UNICEF videos on children affected by Cyclone Pam are also being shared with BBC and TVNZ for airing.

The internal communications capacity is dwindling, with the Communications Officer from PNG and Senior Communications Assistant from Fiji having left Vanuatu. The Communications for Development Officer will be in country until 26 April. Arrangements are ongoing to facilitate urgent communications support to the UNICEF Vanuatu field office.

Supply and Logistics

UNICEF continues to support the NDMO through a National Logistics Coordinator in Port Vila. UNICEF is providing humanitarian stakeholders further support through a cost-shared transit warehouse to facilitate the breakdown of bulk imports into smaller shipments for inter-island freight forwarding.

UNICEF Logistics has established partnerships with NGOs CARE International and Act for Peace to continue supporting the emergency response and the recovery phase, which will be require substantial supply inputs.

On 15 April, UNICEF received two 20-foot containers of education supplies and materials from the UNICEF Pacific Office in Fiji.

Through the support of the Swedish Government, UNICEF now has a Logistics Officer taking over from the surge capacity put in place during the month after the cyclone. The Logistics Officer arrived on 12 April and will be supporting UNICEF for at least 6 months.

Funding

UNICEF Pacific and its field office in Vanuatu are very grateful to have received funds from Australia, Estonia, France, Japan, the United Kingdom, the UNICEF National Committees for Australia, France, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, the Japan Committee for UNICEF, the United States Fund for UNICEF, and the UN OCHA Central Emergency Response Fund. These contributions have allowed UNICEF to reach children and families with much-needed support.

	Cluster 2015 Target	Cluster Total Results	UNICEF 2015 Target ⁵	UNICEF Total Results
NUTRITION				
Number of targeted caregivers of children 0-23 months with access to IYCF counselling	6,500	2,831	6,500	2,831
Number of children 6-59 months receiving micronutrient supplementation	12,500	Intervention to be initiated	12,500	Intervention to be initiated
HEALTH				
Number of children 6-59 months vaccinated against measles	25,000	20,312	25,000	20,312
Number of national cold room and cold chain equipment restored	31	9	31	9
Number of affected primary health care facilities with adequate new-born care kits and services	60	10	25	10
WATER, SANITATION & HYGIENE				
Number of emergency-affected population provided with access to safe water as per agreed standards	110,000	46,910	70,000	19,077
Number of emergency-affected population provided with sanitation and hygiene supplies	110,000	46,910	70,000	19,077
Number of emergency-affected population benefiting from hygiene and sanitation promotion messages	110,000	Data collection ongoing	70,000	Data collection ongoing
Percentage of affected communities dependent on only one water source with back-up source identified	70%	Data collection ongoing	70%	Data collection ongoing
CHILD PROTECTION				
Number of children and adolescence provided with access to safe spaces for trauma relief through psychosocial support, socialization, play and learning	20,000	Data collection ongoing	20,000	Data collection ongoing
Number of parents/caregivers provided with information on reducing psychosocial stress	6,400	Intervention to be initiated	6,400	Intervention to be initiated
Number of youth, girls and boys oriented as peer educators on prevention of violence	100	26	100	26
Number of service providers oriented on child protection in emergencies	350	58	350	58
Number of children provided with replacement birth registration documentation	6,400	134	6,400	134
EDUCATION				
Number of affected preschool and primary school children with access to temporary learning spaces (TLS)	22,000	2,035	16,000	1,535
Number of preschool and school age children that have received learning materials and school supplies	22,540	3,468	22,540	3,468
Number of education service providers (ECE and Primary) oriented in psychosocial support and DRR messaging	1,004	20	944	20
Number of emergency-affected children (ECE & Primary) accessing psychosocial support and DRR key messages	19,000	Intervention to be initiated	10,000	Intervention to be initiated

⁵ Targets are for Vanuatu

Tuvalu, Solomon Islands and Kiribati

TUVALU

The impact of Tropical Cyclone Pam was severe on some islands in Tuvalu (particularly Nui and Nanumaga), largely due to the storm surge. There are an estimated 900 school-aged children on the affected islands. Funafuti, the most populous island with approximately 4,500 people, was comparatively unaffected by the cyclone.

Initial rapid assessment reports from the central islands of Nui, Vaitupu, Nukufetau, Nanumaga and Nanumea indicate that life is normalizing, with power returning, a low prevalence of communicable diseases, sufficient water supplies (except for those of destroyed households and clinics) and adequate food and fuel stocks to meet immediate needs. Medium- and long-term recovery measures will become increasingly important as relief supplies reach the islands. Agricultural recovery will be particularly important because of the almost total loss of crops and extensive loss of livestock. The state of emergency has been lifted in Tuvalu.

On 14 April, the Prime Minister and six other members of the Cabinet left for a week-long trip to the three Central Islands, and affected areas of the Northern islands (Nanumea, Nanumaga and Niutao) and Southern Islands (Nukulaelae and Nuilakita). A UNICEF-contracted professional photographer is accompanying this mission.

UNDP has sent a Debris Management expert to the outer islands to conduct an assessment. He is visiting Central islands but is also expected to go to the Northern and Southern group. UNDP also sent a Communications Specialist to the outer islands, and is providing surge coordination support to the National Disaster Committee.

UNICEF health and WASH supplies (including an emergency health kit containing medicine and supplies for 1,000 people for three months, and 4,000 ORS packs) were delivered by a charter flight from New Zealand, to Funafuti and Central and Northern islands. Distribution was effected through a partnership agreement with the Tuvalu Red Cross. In collaboration with the Ministry of Public Health, the Secretariat of the Pacific Community and Red Cross, UNICEF is facilitating information dissemination to advise communities on health protection measures. A second consignment of education relief supplies has arrived and will be held at the wharf for further dispatch to outer islands.

UNICEF is supporting Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports efforts to support children impacted directly and indirectly by Cyclone Pam and help them to return swiftly to school. Efforts are underway to enable children's lives to return to normal, and to reduce education replacement costs for affected families. Supplies are also aimed at supporting the quick psycho-social and emotional recovery of children. UNICEF relief aid for schools in Tuvalu includes 899 school bag packs (224 for early primary children and 675 for primary and upper primary children) for all primary school-going children. The Early Childhood Centers will also be provided with 1,000 drawing books, 119 exercise books for writing and 214 packs of coloured pencils.

All primary school-going children and those enrolled in early childhood and care centers in all of the outer islands except Niulakita (which was unaffected) will receive UNICEF supplies.

SOLOMON ISLANDS

Tropical Cyclone Pam brought heavy rain to most provinces in Solomon Islands. Temotu province experienced hurricane force winds as the cyclone intensified and moved out of Solomon Island territory. Initial assessments confirmed significant damage to houses, food gardens and fruit trees as well as flooding and contamination of water sources. Agriculture, fishing, health and infrastructure have all been severely affected. Access to communities has been difficult or impossible due to flooding, fallen trees and very rough seas.

The initial response team that visited Temotu province was able to restore water supply in the island of Anuta (total population 247 people), and also distributed 83 collapsible water containers donated by UNICEF. Although Tikopia Island (total population 1,400) did not suffer severe damage, it needs improved water supply systems. The initial assessment of 13 schools in Temotu province showed no major infrastructural damage, although most schools will need minor repair work. Teachers in all schools will need support for food supplies, as their food gardens were destroyed.

The team deployed for initial assessment in Temotu province has returned to Honiara and is now compiling its findings for presentation to the National Disaster Council. The team is also finalizing the distribution report of

emergency relief items dispatched to the various islands. Findings from initial assessments for Malaita province and the assessments of affected communities conducted by the Provincial WASH authorities are yet to be released.

As reported by the provincial emergency center, a total of 631 houses suffered partial damage and 105 were totally destroyed in central eastern and southern divisions of Malaita, while 447 kitchens were partly damaged and 16 destroyed. Landslides and floodwater have damaged water supply pipes, storage tanks and dams. The Rural Water Supply and Sanitation office in Malaita is finalizing a response plan.

UNICEF is supporting the WASH Cluster in responding to the impact on water and sanitation. It has provided non-food items including soap, chlorine tablets and collapsible containers for use in Temotu Province. It is also providing WASH containers and soap for use in the preparation of 305 household kits for other affected areas. Initial WASH supplies were delivered by sea to the remote outer islands of Temotu province by the Ministry of Health and the medical services assessment team.

KIRIBATI

Four metre-high waves were experienced in Kiribati on 13 March (where the highest point is 3 meters above sea level), causing extensive damage to the Dai Nippon Causeway and to many sea walls on the main atoll of Tarawa. The impact of the cyclone was strongest on the southern islands, particularly Tamana and Arorae. The disaster management committee is monitoring the emergency response and is assisting communities to build or strengthen sea walls.

According to initial assessments from joint teams dispatched by the Government, in which a UNICEF staff member participated, 20 houses along the shore of the southern island of Arorae (estimated population 1,076, including 33 children under 5 years of age) were destroyed, and families have found temporary shelter in schools and community centers. The Government's relief supplies arrived in Arorae on 26 March, bringing cargo, food and household relief supplies, as well as ORS, zinc and essential drugs to respond to an increased number of diarrhoea cases.

On the southern island of Tamana, (estimated population 857, including 72 children under 5 years of age), almost 60 per cent of households were affected, and 65 houses completely destroyed. The affected families are relocating inland to rebuild and are staying with other families. The government relief boat delivered a water pump and five large tanks for water collection and distribution, shovels, wheelbarrows, electric saws, tarpaulins, mosquito nets and household relief items. The Ministry of Health has also sent extra supplies of ORS, zinc and essential drugs to the islands.

Staff from the Red Cross New Zealand and Australia returning from the outer islands, reported an urgent need for water pumps to remove contaminated water from wells damaged or affected by the waves. Water quality testing showed high concentrations of E.coli and salt water. UNICEF's current cooperation in rainwater harvesting in affected villages on Tamana and Arorae islands could contribute to improving access to safe drinking water. Affected communities requested support to construct and repair toilets. House rebuilding is underway, with 18 almost completed, representing about one third of those damaged in Tamana.

A UNICEF officer deployed from Fiji is in Tarawa to support the response.