

SITUATION REPORT – 01 December 2009 (NCR, Regions I, III, and IV-A)

Philippines: Tropical Storm Ketsana (Ondoy), Typhoon Parma (Pepeng), and Typhoon Mirinae (Santi)

Reporting Organization	Community and Family Services International (CFSI)
Report Date	01 December 2009
Report Description	Update on CFSI field activities in the areas affected by Tropical Storm Ketsana (Ondoy), Typhoon Parma (Pepeng), and Typhoon Mirinae (Santi)
Report Period	14 October—30 November 2009
Areas Covered	National Capital Region (NCR): Marikina City, Pasig City, and Quezon City Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR): Baguio City and Benguet Province Region I: Pangasinan Province Region III: Aurora, Bulacan, Nueva Ecija, Pampanga, Tarlac, and Zambales Provinces Region IV-A: Cainta Municipality, Rizal Province

Highlights

- Beginning 03 October 2009, **CFSI deployed its Luzon Emergency Response Team (CFSI-LERT)** to assess and respond to the needs of people affected and displaced by Tropical Storm Ketsana (Ondoy) and Typhoon Parma (Pepeng) in NCR, Region IV-A, and Region III. These areas were selected on the basis of perceived humanitarian impact, need for psychosocial support, and reasonable access. CFSI field activity continued and expanded with the onset of Typhoon Mirinae (Santi).
- From 14 October through 30 November, **CFSI served the following number of people:**
 - Food:** In partnership with WFP and DSWD, CFSI provided food assistance to 48,695 families (243,475 persons) in 34 municipalities in Aurora, Bulacan, Nueva Ecija, Pampanga, Tarlac, and Zambales Provinces. The WFP food aid package consists of the standard 25 kg of rice; a few areas received cooking oil and high-energy biscuits as supplemental items.
 - Health and Psychosocial:** (A) 1,000 families (5,000 persons) received CFSI Family Hygiene Kits in the following locations: Cainta, Rizal; Botolan, Zambales; and Calumpit, Bulacan. (B) 35 persons with disabilities (PWDs) received psychosocial care through group sessions on stress management. (C) 58 disaster responders from at least 15 government, non-government, and international organizations participated in stress management training for humanitarian workers.
 - Child Protection:** 470 children participated in safe play activities, storytelling, puppetry, and other structured group activities in Ultra and Kapitolyo evacuation centers (ECs) in Pasig City from 05 through 29 October.
 - Protection:** With UNHCR, CFSI completed a Participatory Protection Assessment with IDPs and affected communities in the following areas: NCR (Marikina City, Pasig City, and Quezon City); Region IV-A (Cainta Municipality, Rizal Province); Region III (Bulacan, Nueva Ecija, Tarlac, and Zambales Provinces); and Region I (Pangasinan Province). This assessment was also undertaken in cooperation with the Ateneo Human Rights Center (AHRC) and St. Louis University (SLU). Findings are being consolidated and will be circulated through the Protection Cluster.
- CFSI reached agreement with UNHCR to carry out a protection project that began on 25 November and will continue through at least May 2010. Under this initiative, **CFSI will address the protection needs of affected populations in CAR and Regions I, III, IV-A** by undertaking Quick Impact Projects (QIPs), serving especially vulnerable individuals (EVIs), distributing non-food items (NFIs), and providing technical assistance.
- CFSI launched an Emergency Appeal**, with the goal of raising USD250,000 (PHP11,250,000) to produce 25,000 Family Hygiene Kits for 25,000 families in NCR, Region III, Region IV-A, and, possibly, Region I. As of report date, CFSI has received cash donations and pledges from various organizations and individuals in the Philippines, Germany, Australia, Viet Nam, and the United States. This amount represents almost 14% of the Organization's appeal target.
- CFSI participates in meetings of the IASC Country Team and the meetings of the Food, Protection, Child Protection, Education, and Health Clusters. CFSI submitted proposals to the relevant Cluster Leads in support of the flash appeals process.

Humanitarian Needs and Response

Food

Needs: Crop damage and failure, lack of employment opportunity, price increase of basic commodities, and inaccessibility of markets have been cited by IDPs as the main causes of food insecurity. Displaced people in ECs rely primarily on relief for food, as they have no or limited access to jobs or other income sources.

Response: As a Cooperating Partner of WFP and DSWD, CFSI is working in 34 municipalities in Aurora, Bulacan, Nueva Ecija, Pampanga, Tarlac, and Zambales Provinces. Under the Food Assistance Project, CFSI is conducting social preparation; identifying and addressing logistical constraints; assisting in data collection and masterlisting; and coordinating food distribution and monitoring. To date, a total of 48,695 families (243,475 persons) have been provided with 25 kg of rice; a few areas received cooking oil and high-energy biscuits as supplemental items. CFSI established a Sub-Office in San Fernando City, Pampanga, and a Field Office in Tarlac City, Tarlac to support operations on the ground.

Gaps and Constraints: Impassable roads in Aurora significantly limited ground movement during the early phases of coordination and distribution. In Pampanga, the possibility of politicizing food aid distribution was quickly addressed by WFP and CFSI. The possibility and practical requirements of undertaking Food for Work to contribute to early recovery is being studied.

Health

Needs: Affected people are deeply concerned about the spread of diseases, particularly leptospirosis and other water-borne infections. Cases of cold, flu, fever, and a few other illnesses have been reported inside and outside ECs, some of which are manageable and being addressed by existing resources. Reproductive health concerns have been expressed by the affected population, especially women. The affected communities have demonstrated resilience and are able to cope with their situation, while a few, including disaster responders, have sought direct interventions such as counseling and stress management activities.

Response: CFSI distributed Family Hygiene Kits to 1,000 families (5,000 persons) in the following locations: Cainta, Rizal; Botolan, Zambales; and Calumpit, Bulacan. Acting on a report from Handicap International, CFSI provided psychosocial care to 35 persons with disabilities (PWDs) in Tahanang Walang Hagdanan (TWH) through group stress management sessions. The CFSI Health and Psychosocial Services Team conducted

stress management workshops for 58 disaster responders from at least 15 government, non-government, and international organizations including: DSWD, DOH, PNRC, NCMH, UP CSWCD, Miriam College, PAL Foundation, and Plan International. CFSI issued an Emergency Appeal and is mobilizing resources to produce 25,000 Family Hygiene Kits for 25,000 families in NCR, Region IV-A, Region III, and, possibly, Region I. The disabled persons at TWH assembled at least 500 of these kits.

Gaps and Constraints: Funding gaps are the main limitations on progress in this front, specifically for the production, assembly, and distribution of the Family Hygiene Kits. To date, CFSI has received cash donations and pledges, representing almost 14% of the Organization’s appeal target.

Child Protection

Needs: In the ECs of Ultra and Kapitolyo in Pasig City, parents have expressed concern for the protection of their children. For the duration of their stay in these ECs, these children were not engaged in safe or structured activities and have been reported to wander. Now that these two ECs have been closed, child protection concerns are now directly tied to safe and dignified return of the displaced families. Reportedly, many of the IDPs in Marikina City, Pasig City, and Quezon City have been relocated or informed of options to relocate to parts of Laguna and Rizal Provinces. Meanwhile, in the ECs of Region III, the situation was less problematic, since local government administrators have set up security patrols especially at night. However, child protection as well as education activities in these ECs can and should be better supported by way of books, school supplies and similar items.

Response: From 05 through 29 October, CFSI conducted safe play activities, storytelling, puppetry, and other structured group activities for at least 470 children in the ECs of Ultra and Kapitolyo. Of this number, 275 are male; 195 are female; 239 are 2 to 10 years old; and 231 are 11 to 17 years old. With the closure of ECs, CFSI integrated child protection issues within broader protection programming. This is reflected in the recently concluded Participatory Protection Assessment with UNHCR.

Gaps and Constraints: At least in Pasig City, the lack of clarity on standards, procedures, and timelines for EC closure affected the duration and range of child protection activities. In NCR, Region IV-A, and Region III, inadequate quantity of books, toys, supplies, and other materials limited work with children.

Protection

Needs: The condition and needs of especially vulnerable individuals, such as children, women, persons with disabilities (PWDs), elderly, and indigenous people should be more closely examined and addressed. To enhance protection and promote early recovery of these individuals in particular and the displaced population in general, every possible effort must be made to ensure that they are regularly consulted about matters related to their welfare. Further, their participation in response, rehabilitation, and reconstruction should be encouraged and supported. The recent closure of ECs, mostly in NCR and its environs underscored the importance of safe and dignified return, integration, or settlement of IDPs, as well as their current protection needs.

Response: With UNHCR, CFSI is engaged in a Participatory Protection Assessment in different areas: NCR (Marikina City, Pasig City, and Quezon City); Region IV-A (Cainta Municipality, Rizal Province); Region III (Bulacan, Nueva Ecija, Tarlac, and Zambales Provinces); and Region I (Pangasinan Province). This assessment was also undertaken in cooperation with the Ateneo Human Rights Center (AHRC). Findings are being consolidated and will be circulated through the Protection Cluster. Subsequent protection initiatives will be informed by these findings, as well as ongoing feedback from the field. Further, CFSI reached agreement with UNHCR to carry out a protection project that began on 25 November and will continue through at least May 2010. CFSI will implement Quick Impact Projects (QIPs), serve especially vulnerable individuals (EVIs), distribute non-food items (NFIs), and provide technical assistance to affected populations in Regions I, III, IV-A and CAR.

Gaps and Constraints: Options for dignified return or resettlement are usually constrained by the limited resources of local governments. When considering permanent resettlement, IDPs look for availability of livelihood, employment, schools, hospitals, and other social services.

Recommendations

Based on field experience during the reporting time-frame, CFSI makes the following recommendations:

For Government: (1) Encourage and increase community participation in managing ECs as well as in relief distribution, child protection, education, and livelihood. (2) Operationalize and observe human rights and humanitarian principles on closure of ECs and the return, integration, or settlement of IDPs—especially at the local level—to ensure that these actions respect the rights as well as the dignity of displaced and host communities. (3) Institutionalize disaster preparedness and mitigation in local development planning.

For UN Agencies: (1) Support the strengthening of coordination and service delivery structures, especially at the local level. (2) Continue ensuring transparency and accountability in mobilizing and distribution of relief, as well as early recovery and reconstruction. (3) Support efforts to develop, operationalize, and enforce standards for IDP protection, especially when applied at the local level. (4) Support and enhance long-term local capacity in disaster preparedness and mitigation.

For INGOs, NGOs, and other humanitarian actors: (1) Foster inter-agency cooperation and minimize duplication of effort through timely information sharing and, where practical, joint action. (2) Continue ensuring transparency and accountability in mobilizing and distribution of relief, as well as early recovery and reconstruction. (3) Monitor measures for return, integration, or settlement of IDPs, with a keen eye on protection and human rights. (4) Support and enhance long-term local capacity in disaster preparedness and mitigation.

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Field data collected by the CFSI Luzon Emergency Response Team and consolidated by Joseph Lumanog