

This report was issued by OCHA New York based on inputs from the OCHA Regional Office for Asia Pacific (ROAP) and OCHA Philippines. It covers the period from 10 to 16 November 2009 and addresses Typhoon Parma/Pepeng, Tropical Storm Ketsana/Ondoy as well as Typhoon Mirinae/Santi. The next report will be issued on or around 24 November.

I. HIGHLIGHTS/KEY PRIORITIES

- **The Revised 2009 Philippines Flash Appeal was launched on Wednesday, 18 November. The revised appeal seeks funding in the amount of \$143 million to provide relief and early recovery assistance to 4.2 million affected people in the Philippines.**
- **WASH concerns continue to be a priority with reports of seriously underserved communities and evacuation centres (ECs) in many urban and rural regions.**
- **The closure of ECs in National Capital Region (NCR) and Region IV-A continues to provoke protection concerns.**
- **A joint follow-up mission to the affected Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) took place from 14-16 November.**
- **The National Disaster Coordinating Council (NDCC) reported that three ash explosions occurred on the Mayon Volcano, south-east of the capital Manila, on 11 November. The volcano remains at Alert Level 2 which indicates a state of unrest and possible further eruptions.**

II. Situation Overview

- Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) reports that the combined effects of Tropical Storm Ketsana/Ondoy and Typhoons Parma/Pepeng and Mirinae/Santi claimed the lives of 961 people, while 756 have been reported injured and 90 remain missing.
- The most recent DSWD reports indicate that 29,616 families, or 135,106 people, are living in 458 ECs.
- Department of Health (DOH) reports that, as of 12 November, 160 barangays remain flooded, affecting 223,289 families or 1,172,085 individuals. According to the HEARS PLUS emergency health report, 202,000 families in Region IV-A, more than one million people, continue to live in areas where flood waters have yet to recede.
- WASH concerns continue to be a priority with reports of seriously underserved ECs in many urban and rural regions. Medecins San Frontieres Holland (MSFH) reported results of a rapid assessment in Zambales that revealed alarming shortcomings in the WASH services in three ECs. In one case, an EC in the Botolan municipality housing 4653 people had only four functioning latrines. In another, 736 people had access to only two latrines. The third EC, a "tent city", had two poorly functioning latrines for 862 people.
- Information management and coordination measures continue in an effort to identify gaps in delivery, especially in difficult to access communities.
- A joint follow-up mission to the affected Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) took place from 14-16 November. Participants included IFRC, UNDP, UNHCR, Spanish Red-Cross, UNICEF, IOM and OCHA representing the WASH, CCCM/NFI, Shelter, Protection and Early Recovery clusters. The joint team visited 12 ECs in Itogon, Tublay and La Trinidad within Benguet province. A stopover was also made in Tadian, Mountain Province. The team also visited a relocation site identified by Local Government Units (LGUs) on the DSWD-accompanied mission. It is estimated that 200 families (867 individuals) were affected mainly by landslide following the typhoons. Overall the relief phase is sufficiently covered; however, there are a few small gaps in NFIs. The concerns now focus on the recovery period, including the relocation process of affected persons and livelihoods. A final report with more details will be available shortly.

III. Humanitarian Needs and Response

Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene

Needs: The key humanitarian concern is access to safe water, sanitation facilities and hygiene items in the relocation camps and in residential areas affected by the floods. Other top priorities include rehabilitation and improvement of drainage, solid waste collection and vector control.

Response: Efforts to promote coordination at the provincial and municipal level continue. On 10 November, the second Laguna coordination meeting was convened in Cabuyao where representatives from the municipality gave a presentation on the flood-affected barangays of Bigaa, Butong, Marinig, Gulod and Baclaran. Provision and desludging of toilets was the major problem identified.

A workshop on sanitation, focusing on ECs was held in Los Banos, Laguna on 11 November. Representatives from Laguna province, the municipalities of Los Banos, Calamba, Cabuyao, San Pedro, Santa Cruz, Santa Rosa and Binan and NGOs working in the province attended. The objectives of the workshop were to identify sanitation problems caused by the flooding, to find solutions to these problems and to produce an action plan. The main problems with toilets in ECs reported were that septic tanks were full or not regularly desludged, that toilets were too few, poorly maintained or were inaccessible due to flooding. Although the workshop provided technical information about these problems, the roles and responsibilities of different actors - particularly the municipalities - were not clearly defined, making an action plan difficult to complete. Follow-up to the workshop aims to clarify responsibilities, identify the municipalities' capacities, and highlight areas where they require further support.

Gaps and Challenges: The main challenge is reducing the risk of water-borne diseases such as diarrhoea, AWD and cholera. This includes implementing appropriate means for safe excreta disposal in areas that remain flooded or with high water tables. Coordination support and capacity building efforts in the municipalities are needed to improve the local WASH response to flood victims

Food

Needs: WFP has finalized a revision of the current emergency operation and waits for final approval from HQ. The revision seeks to extend support for the early recovery period through June 2010. These additional needs have been reflected in the revised UN Flash Appeal which was launched on 18 November 2009.

Response: At the weekly Food Cluster Coordination Meeting held on 17 November, partners attending included Save the Children, Oxfam, Community Family Services International (CFSI), OCHA and UNICEF. Ongoing food assistance by various partners and on-the-ground coordination were discussed. Oxfam shared preliminary findings of post-distribution monitoring in ECs in Laguna and Rizal Provinces where emergency cash grants are being distributed to complement food aid. CFSI, WFP's Cooperating Partner in Region III, reported that food distribution for November will commence this week. CFSI is assisting the local government with monitoring and distribution. WFP/UNHAS is supporting the Government's relief effort in Northern Luzon following a logistics assessment in early November. A total of 85 MT of rice is currently being airlifted to difficult to access areas in CAR. WFP is proceeding with November food distributions. Regional allocations have been submitted by the Government and WFP is finalizing its distribution plan together with National/Regional level DSWD. WFP continues to prepare for the supplementary feeding program in coordination with the National Nutrition Council which will target 50,000 children 6 – 24 months old, starting January 2010.

Gaps and Challenges: Funding shortfalls are expected to rise significantly when the revision of current WFP emergency operation is approved. Continued donor support is needed to provide food assistance to the most vulnerable and severely affected people in Luzon.

Health

Needs: As of 16 November, 78,915 families or 382,541 individuals reside in still-flooded areas in 871 barangays in 125 municipalities of NCR (Pasig, Taguig, Muntinlupa) Region III, Region IV-A (Laguna and Rizal provinces), Region IV-B, and Region V. Leptospirosis cases from Regions I, II, III, IV-A, NCR, and CAR now total 3,382 cases, with 249 cumulative mortalities.

Response: The GOARN team is still consolidating its report for release. 337,936 individuals have been given prophylaxis from NCR and Region IV-A. Mapping of affected primary centers is still ongoing. Continued mobile health care services and psychosocial program coverage is being provided in affected areas through the efforts of partner agencies and NGOs.

Gaps and Challenges: Several areas still have limited access to medical care service. No 24/7 health services are available in ECs. Evacuee's access to secondary and tertiary health care is limited. Disease surveillance and reporting systems must be urgently strengthened.

Camp Coordination/NFIs

Needs: Assessments are ongoing in ECs to determine changing needs of the displaced populations.

Response: The Cluster is increasing its assessment capacity by engaging government authorities in data collection. This week, a pilot program is being implemented in four municipalities to support DSWD in their role as lead in data collection and reporting. The CCCM/NFI Displacement Tracking Matrix has compiled multi-sector data on 159 ECs principally through IOM camp management liaison teams, however data collection and compilation is being transitioned to DSWD with agency support. Physical rehabilitation of high risk ECs in NCR and Region IV-A is scheduled to commence this week. NFI kits, particularly hygiene kits and shelter kits, have been distributed in limited quantities in the worst affected areas. NFI Tracking is on-going and will be rolled out by Local Government Units in the worst affected municipalities.

Gaps and Challenges: Accessing adequate data represents a challenge due to the dynamic nature of the ECs. More EC assessment teams are required. There is still a significant shortfall in terms of servicing the targeted 1.7 million people living in flooded areas and ECs requiring NFI assistance.

Agriculture

Needs: Department of Agriculture (DA) reports damages to the agriculture and fisheries sector amounting to \$624.72 million (6 November). The most severe damages and losses were caused to rice crops. A cultivated area of 581,087 hectares was damaged, a third of it without any possibility for crop recovery. Losses to rice are equivalent to 17.88 percent of the fourth quarter production. Significant damage to public and community infrastructure will have an immediate impact on agricultural production and commercialization (roads). Total damages to irrigation systems are estimated at over \$78.2 million. Emergency supply of agricultural inputs (crop and vegetable seeds, planting material and fertilizers), provision of animals (piglets, goats and native chicks for immediate livelihood needs), provision of fishery inputs (fingerlings, gears and feed) and repair of damaged small-scale irrigation are priority needs. Immediate assistance is required to prevent prolonged food insecurity, which can in turn lead to economic deprivation, dependency on external food aid and the adoption of harmful coping strategies.

Response: Data consolidation from the jointly-led Agriculture Sector Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) of damages and losses is being finalized. The Sector is now in the process of identifying priority needs. The report is expected to be finalized by mid November 2009. The cluster continues its effort to boost the emergency response and is focusing on strengthening cluster coordination. A cluster meeting on 12 November served to clarify the status of members' ongoing relief operations. The cluster focus in the revised Flash Appeal has shifted to Regions I, II, III and CAR due to damages caused by Typhoon Parma/Pepeng.

Gaps and Challenges: The funding requirements for immediate relief assistance for the affected farmers remain underfunded.

Early Recovery

Response: The Early Recovery Cluster convened a briefing for IASC members and NGO representatives on the status of the Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA). The ER Cluster facilitated enhanced UN involvement in the PDNA process to harmonize it with the social/early recovery issues addressed in the Flash Appeal. The PDNA damage and needs assessments have been completed. Reports and inputs to the Recovery Framework have been submitted by nineteen sectors. The main report draft is expected by the weekend. Government Public/Private Commissions and the Development Partners will convene on 2 December to discuss the findings. The ER Cluster took advantage of forum to further the discussion on a programmatic approach to early recovery and the need for the development of a national ER policy. Discussions will be initiated with the GRP/NDCC within the week. An Inter-agency mission to CAR Region revealed that local authorities claim to be moving into the rehabilitation phase.

Gaps and Challenges: Key priorities for CAR Region include the restoration of livelihoods (predominantly agriculture) involving the rehabilitation of irrigation systems and the provision of seeds/tools and fertilizers. Seed stocks will need to come from outside the Philippines. The identification of alternative livelihood strategies is needed for those families who will not be able to cultivate their holdings due to them being buried under landslides. Anecdotal evidence also suggests that psychological trauma may be affecting people's productivity. Relocation sites will need to incorporate strong DRR standards during the reconstruction phase.

Education

Needs: The total typhoon-related school damages reported to the Education Cluster have now risen to over PhP 1.5 billion (more than \$31 million), taking into account damages to structures, teaching materials and equipment in nearly 3000 schools. As of 4 November, 100 schools in Luzon were still being used as evacuation centres (ECs) housing a total of 9734 people.

Response: To date, the Education Cluster has provided 60,070 essential learning packages for individual students, 335 teaching packs for individual teachers, 11 library sets (100 books each), 1,033 individual packs for ECCD children, 66 ECCD kits for day care centers and preschools, 8,604 food packs for individual children, 36 clean-up sets, 10,089 hygiene kits for elementary and high schools, 938 jerry cans and 938 bottles of hypsol. The cluster is currently reviewing the draft Education Cluster Plan of Action as well as the draft Education Cluster Monitoring Plan for the first six months of the emergency response. Discussions on the early recovery response for education are ongoing.

Gaps and Challenges: Joint discussions have been ongoing with the Protection Cluster on the closure of schools being used as ECs. Water and sanitation facilities in these schools must be assessed and interventions planned for. The normalization of school activities in affected areas remains a challenge.

Emergency Shelter

Needs: The validation process of damaged houses continues with more detailed assessments conducted last week. As of 14 November, NDCC reports that the number of damaged houses has increased to 285,843, with 248,611 described as partially damaged and 37,232 as totally damaged. The PDNA report to be published on the 23 November will report damages per type of house. The affected population is sheltered in their (damaged) houses, in ECs, relocation sites and with host families. A reported 269 families have moved back to their province of origin with the Balik Probinsiya program. The Shelter Cluster has participated in a situation update in the CAR province where the Government has declared the start of the recovery phase.

Response: Organizations (14) working in a coordinated manner through the Emergency Shelter Cluster are awaiting confirmation of funding to be able to initiate their response. This funding may come from the revised flash appeal or other funding mechanisms. Current plans are to serve 67,500 households with a repair kit, a shelter kit or a transitional shelter. Other types of support being provided include cleaning, provision of tents and training. Last week, Swiss Development Cooperation finalized 150 emergency shelters in San Pedro (Laguna). Shelterbox reported the completion of the distribution of 688 shelter boxes (150 only tents) mainly in Regions I and CAR. IOM started the distribution of 100 shelter repair kits in Muntinlupa. Habitat for Humanity distributed 100 repair kits in Malanday (Marikina). The shelter cluster is in the process of improving coordination with NHA and HUDCC.

Gaps and Challenges: The total official number of damaged houses has risen to 285,000 units. The planned support from the cluster organizations will cover approximately 23 percent of this need, based on the assumption that 50 percent of these households will require support. This represents a significant gap.

Nutrition

Needs: Access to potable water is the principle concern. The inherent benefits of breastfeeding are further highlighted when water quality is questionable. Efforts must be focused on reducing the risks for infants who are mix-fed (breastfed as well as given other foods and liquids) and infants who are not breastfed at all. Priority targets are mothers with infants less than 6 months, and pregnant and lactating mothers living in ECs in Region IV-A and NCR. Donations of infant formula, other milk products, bottles and teats, though well-meaning, are endangering children's lives.

Response: Two trainings on infant feeding in emergencies, with a participation of 50 health staff, were conducted by the Nutrition Cluster members for Regional and provincial infant and young child feeding coordinators in Provinces of Laguna and Rizal. Cascade training on IFE for health staff in respective municipalities is planned in the coming weeks with support from Save the Children, Child Fund, Plan International and UNICEF.

Gaps and Challenges: Resource limitations represent a significant gap. There is a need for more health workers skilled in infant and young child feeding, infant feeding in emergencies and NGOs with nutrition programs/interventions.

Protection

Needs: Relocation of families from at risk areas and from ECs in a protection sensitive manner remains a priority. Inter-agency field visits to Baguio City and Benguet Province showed that persons with special needs have neither been systematically identified nor received targeted assistance. There are concerns for the welfare of separated families, missing, unaccompanied and separated children, and street and working children in Metro Manila. There is an increased risk of trafficking, violence, sexual abuse and exploitation in affected areas and ECs.

Response: More than 16,404 children are being provided psychosocial support and care in over 136 affected areas. Over 1,118 volunteers have been mobilized to provide child protection (CP) services with over 50 CP NGOs/CBOs, and CWCs have been provided with lists of children in order to conduct verification. 80 field interviewers from NCR, Regions III, IV-A and CAR trained on protection/participatory assessment by the

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Protection Cluster. 25 sites were assessed with almost 1050 beneficiaries interviewed. The UNFPA Technical Specialist for Humanitarian Response arrived to support the gender-based violence (GBV) sub-cluster response.

Gaps and Challenges: Comprehensive registration of persons with special needs has still to be conducted. Criteria related to return and relocation initiatives are not always clear. Identification of durable solutions for families whose homes were destroyed requires cross-cluster coordination.

Logistics

Needs: Accessibility in northern Luzon remains a serious issue due to damaged bridges and landslides. Efforts to reach inaccessible areas by air are ongoing. An inter-agency assessment mission took place over the weekend in Benguet with local authorities to plan for NFI requirements in the north. Assessment of road conditions and accessibility of remote communities in northern Luzon is ongoing.

Response: Three Logistics Cluster hubs have been established in northern Luzon and dispatches are active. Two of the hubs in San Fernando La Union and Laoag are dedicated to air operations for Benguet, Mountain Provinces, Calanasan and Apayao. The third hub in Baguio, Benguet will be used primarily for surface transport. Its location at the airport of Laokan will also facilitate air operations as required. UPS support to the LET (TNT-Agility-UPS Logistics Emergency Team) has been extended until the end of November with three UPS trucks, one warehouse, and staff deployed to NROC (the National Resource Operations Center). Maps of the inaccessible locations being targeted in the North-West and Benguet have been produced and are available on the Logistics Cluster website at: www.logcluster.org.

Emergency Telecoms

Response: The cluster continues to provide technical support to the humanitarian community in Metro Manila. Improvements to RCBC repeater site installation completed. Testing of security VHF telecomms in Metro Manila and Region IV-A continues. Negotiations with authorities together with UNDSS to secure repeater sites in Metro Manila are ongoing. Frequency licensing procedures are also underway.

Gaps and Challenges: The need for UN/Humanitarian sub-office hubs in the affected areas has not yet been confirmed. Northern Metro Manila VHF security communications repeater coverage is limited. Access permission to the Tagaytay repeater site is still ongoing

IV. Coordination

UN-OCHA Information Management produced a preliminary 2W (Who is Where) matrix to synchronize all data gathering activities related to the relief operations and ensure complementation of programs as well as minimize duplication of interventions.

V. Funding

The Financial Tracking Service reports that, as of 19 November, the Revised Philippines 2009 Flash Appeal is 21 percent funded, having received \$30 million of the revised request for \$143 million.

All humanitarian partners including donors and recipient agencies are encouraged to inform FTS of cash and in-kind contributions by sending an email to: fts@reliefweb.int.

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For more information on the humanitarian response in the Philippines, please visit:

<http://www.un.org.ph/response>