

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 24 to 30 November 2009. It addresses Typhoon Parma/Pepeng, Tropical Storm Ketsana/Ondoy, Typhoon Mirinae/Santi and Tropical Depression Urduja. The next report will be issued on or around 7 December.

I. HIGHLIGHTS/KEY PRIORITIES

- Tropical Depression Urduja caused significant damage to the Visayas region. To date, no request for international assistance has been made.
- The Mayon volcano in Albay province continues to show signs of activity with ash explosions and tremors. This poses a serious threat to the surrounding areas.
- The Financial Tracking Service (FTS) reports that as of 24 November, the revised Philippines 2009 Flash Appeal has been 23.4 percent funded, having received US\$33 million of the revised request for \$143.77 million. This represents an increase of only 1.4 percent in the requested funding during this reporting period.

II. Situation Overview

- Tropical Depression Urduja caused significant damage to the Visayas region. To date, there have been no requests for international assistance. Although the National Disaster Coordinating Council (NDCC) originally reported a much higher number of affected persons, the figure now stands at 12,326 families (48,129 persons) in 167 *barangay* (village/district). This data is based on a more detailed assessment of the areas affected. Landslides and floodwaters caused 17 reported casualties, including four deaths and 13 injuries. More than 12,000 people took refuge in 33 evacuation centres (ECs) (NDCC, 29 November).
- The Mayon volcano in Albay province continues to show signs of activity with ash explosions and tremors, posing a serious threat to the surrounding areas. The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS) and the NDCC continue to monitor the situation and are preparing for possible eruption scenarios in the coming weeks. On 25 November, a joint Government of the Republic of the Philippines and Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) aerial assessment and preparedness assessment of Albay Province, Region V, took place as part of the Phase II preparedness protocol.
- The FTS reports that as of 24 November, the revised Philippines 2009 Flash Appeal has been 23.4 percent funded, having received \$33 million of the revised request for \$143.77 million. This represents an increase of only 1.4 percent in the requested funding during this reporting period. Many clusters remain seriously underfunded, affecting their capacity to implement relief and early recovery projects.

III. Humanitarian Needs and Response

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Needs: The key humanitarian concerns continue to be 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 continue to improve local authorities' coordinating capacity. In Laguna, the Provisional WASH Cluster was approved by the provincial authorities and is being formalized by the Provincial Disaster Coordinating Committee (PDCC). The Water Cluster and UNICEF have organized a second sanitation workshop to identify existing sanitation facilities and recommend improvements. The Cluster Coordinator will leave on 3 December and his successor will begin a six-month stay in January. In addition to supporting WASH coordination, focus will be made on capacity-building for local governments and developing standardized tools. An interim Cluster Advisor will fill the gap until January. After the Laguna sub-cluster is established, a similar structure will be established in Rizal. A UNICEF communications-in-development specialist is developing posters for sanitation education. The messages will be posted on the Water Cluster's web page (un.org.ph/response/water) after field testing. It will be available to cluster members next week.

Gaps and Challenges: Evacuees continue to leave the ECs in NCR after they received incentives from the municipalities. However, it remains unclear where they are returning to. Challenges remain to reduce the risk

of waterborne diseases such as diarrhea, Acute Watery Diarrhea and cholera. This includes implementing appropriate means for safe excreta disposal in areas that remain flooded or with high water tables. Manila Water empties septic tanks in ECs. However, municipal capacity to provide desludging services in other areas requires strengthening.

Protection

Needs: While large areas remain flooded, the rapid closure of schools, particularly in NCR and Region IV-A, highlights the need to identify and implement durable solutions and find adequate alternatives on a temporary basis. Registration of missing, unaccompanied and separated children is urgently needed. Other concerns include trafficking; domestic violence; sexual and gender-based violence; sexual abuse; exploitation; safety of children; separation of families; and water and sanitation services in affected areas and ECs.

Response: More than 42,787 children are receiving psycho-social support, child-friendly spaces and child-focused activities in affected areas. More than 2,160 volunteers were mobilized to provide child protection (CP) services. Continuation of CP activities of five NGO networks is being reviewed. Partners that will distribute family, hygiene and water kits are being identified. The Protection Cluster's participatory needs assessment will be discussed with authorities, national and international humanitarian agencies at a conclusion workshop on 3 December.

Gaps and Challenges: Strategies are underway to scale-up CP and psycho-social activities. Alternative care arrangements for separated/unaccompanied children need to be developed. Key constraints are difficulties of access and lack of partners in Northern and Central Luzon areas, technical capacities of local organizations and lack of supplies and resources. A strengthened, coordinated and mainstreamed protection approach is required regarding the closure of all ECs and relocation of IDPs.

Emergency Shelter

Needs: More than 300,000 houses were reported damaged or destroyed. There are also concerns for affected informal settlements whose number needs to be assessed and people living in submerged houses. The Protection Cluster, in cooperation with the CCCM, Wash, Early Recovery and Shelter Clusters, continues to express concerns to the NDCC regarding sufficient short- and medium-term shelter alternatives after the closure of the ECs. Specific concerns persist for vulnerable people such as the elderly, people with disabilities and children.

Response: Meetings with donors are ongoing. The Shelter Cluster plans to provide shelter support by distributing shelter repair kits, complete shelter kits, transitional shelter, cleaning support, tents and training in all affected regions. Early recovery is being mainstreamed through the provision of do-it-yourself kits, cash-for-work and voucher systems. In addition to the funding situation, a big concern is the lack of land available for setting-up transitional shelter sites. Two organizations have indicated they have the funds and materials available, but are waiting for the Government to provide suitable locations. The Shelter Cluster has recently established official contacts with Government counterparts to coordinate the response activities and discuss its concerns. A series of meetings are underway between the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) regional offices and CCCM to better coordinate operations and share information. The IFRC Shelter Cluster is preparing to handover its activities to a Global Shelter Cluster partner, with the focus of its activities moving towards recovery.

Gaps and Challenges: The official number of housed damaged remains at 307,000. Shelter support is seriously underfunded at less than 10 percent of the requested Flash Appeal funds. The Government has not yet been able to identify sufficient appropriate land for transitional and relocation purposes, hampering the speed of the response, while some agencies are ready to implement. Short-term and medium-term shelter gaps threaten people currently in ECs (especially schools and churches) that may close. Permanent shelter is not yet available.

Food

Needs: The revised United Nations Flash Appeal covers the period up to March 2010. The appeal included the relief and early recovery assistance request from WFP of \$55.5 million. Headquarters approved the WFP Emergency Operation (EMOP) budget revision. It is now extended and will provide support to people affected by Tropical Storm Ketsana and Typhoon Parma until June 2010. The EMOP has three main components. It is designed to assist extremely vulnerable individuals, such as female-headed households, through general food distribution; the poorest and most affected households through food for work; and children between 6 – 23 months and pregnant/nursing mothers through the provision of a dry take-home ration of supplementary food. The total food requirements are estimated to be more than 70,000 tons of mixed food commodities reaching a peak of 1.5 million beneficiaries.

Response: The results of the WFP Emergency Food Security Assessment (EFSA) will be presented to members of the Food Cluster on 3 December. Cluster leads from other clusters are also invited. The EFSA

aims to look at the impact of the flood on food security and livelihoods among different target groups. These groups include the population currently in ECs, the population living in the still-flooded areas, and farmers whose land has been severely damaged. It will provide information on the impact of the flood on food security and livelihoods. The EFSA will provide the starting point for regional discussions on WFP food-for-work activities. A Food Cluster coordination meeting is organized weekly inviting DSDW, various NGO partners and United Nations agencies. The meeting will update relevant actors' food distribution activities and their planning. Orientation sessions with Regional Provincial and Municipal DSWD officials are planned for the next two weeks within each region, with a focus on clarifying roles and responsibilities between partner agencies. These sessions aim to strengthen and facilitate communications and coordination between the Regional, Provincial and Municipal DSWD and WFP.

Gaps and Challenges: Funding shortfalls have risen significantly in line with the approved revision of current WFP emergency operation. Continued donor support is required to continue food assistance to the most vulnerable and severely affected populations in Luzon.

Camp Coordination/NFIs

Needs: After the most recent storm, the DSWD reports that approximately 100,000 IDPs remain in more than 300 ECs. Weekly assessments are ongoing of all the evacuation sites. The results of the pilot data collection programme are being finalized in four municipalities to facilitate DSWD to lead this data collection and reporting. Non-Food Items (NFIs) have been distributed to the worst affected areas including flooded communities and ECs, but there is still a significant shortfall in terms of servicing the targeted 1.7 million people. Reports of rapid closures of ECs have been documented in Muntinlupa City of NCR and Rizal Province of Region IV-A. This was raised with the local authorities in a half-day workshop with DSWD of Region IV-A on 27 November

Response: The cluster is increasing its assessment capacity by engaging Government authorities in data collection. The CCCM/NFI Displacement Tracking Matrix has compiled multi-sector data on 175 ECs. Data collection and compilation is being transitioned to DSWD. Physical rehabilitation of high risk ECs in NCR and Region IV-A has commenced in 28 ECs. NFI tracking is ongoing and will be implemented by Local Government Units in the worst affected municipalities. There has been continued engagement of local and national government around the closure of ECs. The most recent CCCM/NFI cluster meeting was attended by 15 members of the IV-A DSWD regional, provincial and municipal offices.

Gaps and Challenges: Access to data remains a concern because of rapid EC closures. More evacuation centre assessment teams are still required, as are further NFI distributions to affected populations. Obtaining accurate information regarding NFI distribution is a continuing constraint. There is a significant shortfall in the provision of shelter repair kits and a need for the further rehabilitation of ECs.

Early Recovery

Needs: The French NGO Première Urgence undertook a needs assessment for restoration of livelihoods in November in Cagayan Province (Region II), Benguet Province (Region CAR) and La Union and Pangasinan Provinces (Region I). In rural areas, agriculture has been severely hit. Without support for recovery, this could lead to a food security crisis within six months. In urban areas, households most affected were those that relied on a single home-based business as equipment and inventory were lost. Regions IV-A, III and the NCR were most affected. Without support for recovery, GDP is expected to decline by 1.3 and 0.4 percent in 2009 and 2010 respectively. These damages highlight vulnerability that may worsen with increasing exposure to natural disasters. A major part of the population may risk progressive impoverishment with typhoons regularly destroying their assets and income-generating activities and forcing them to contract high-interest loans to recover.

Response: A joint ILO/Department of Labour and Employment (DOLE) workshop on Post Disaster Livelihood and Employment Assessment took place on 25 and 26 November. The objectives included broadening and enriching the knowledge of participants (DOLE) on post-disaster livelihoods and employment damage assessment and enhancing their capacity to lead/conduct post-disaster livelihoods and employment damage assessments. Focus was also placed on improving the current post-disaster damage and loss assessment template/tool of DOLE. The workshop was attended by 50 DOLE technical staff and selected Regional/Provincial Public Employment Service Officers. An important outcome of the workshop was the establishment of a baseline on livelihoods in priority areas.

Gaps and Challenges: Although disaster councils are in place in every administrative level, their impact must be enhanced by programmes implemented at the household level. Disaster preparedness remains a main concern, in particular for cross-cutting issues such as livelihood restoration and income diversification that should be integrated in all activities.

Education

Needs: Nearly 3,000 schools were damaged by the storms, causing some Php 300 million (US\$ 6.4 million) in cumulative damages to school buildings, resources and equipment.

Response: The Education Cluster provided 73,339 essential learning packages for individual students; 371 teaching packs for individual teachers; 31 library sets (100 books each); 1,033 individual packs for Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) children; 66 ECCD kits for day-care centres and preschools; 8,604 food packs for individual children; 44 clean-up sets; 10,089 hygiene kits for elementary and high schools; 938 jerry cans; and 938 bottles of hyposol. Cluster coordinators (UNICEF and Save the Children) met with Department of Education (DepEd) Undersecretary Bacani, three school division superintendents of Laguna, Muntinlupa and Pasig, and several school principals from these areas to discuss the education emergency response. The education staff in these affected areas expressed a need for support in finding medium- and long-term solutions for schools being used as ECs. The cluster indicated the need to revise the rapid assessment forms being used by DepEd, DSWD, NDCC and the other cluster partners to incorporate ECCD, child protection, and water and sanitation issues in order to plan a coherent response.

Gaps and Challenges: Joint discussions have been ongoing with the Protection Cluster on the closure of schools being used as ECs. The situation of water and sanitation facilities in schools has to be assessed and planned for as the RADAR reports do not clearly specify the damage to water and sanitation facilities in schools.

Logistics

Response: Logistics Cluster operations have begun to slow in pace. Air operations will cease on Monday 30 November. Surface transport to affected areas continues, but final requests for truck movements must be submitted to the Logistics Cluster by the end of the week. The mobile storage hubs in Laoag and at Wallace Airbase in San Fernando La Union are currently being emptied and are likely to be dismantled in the coming week. The third Logistics Cluster hub continues to support surface transport operations out of Baguio. The Armed Forces of Philippines (AFP) and Philippines Air Force (PAF) continue to support Logistics Cluster operations through DSWD by providing staff and surface transport. The Logistics Cluster will no longer have a dedicated GIS officer in Manila. However, all maps will continue to be available up to A0 size through the local WFP office. Maps can be downloaded from the Logistics Cluster website at www.logcluster.org/phil09a

Emergency Telecoms

Response: Security VHF repeater installation in Tagatay has been completed. Coverage within Metro Manila and in Region IV has now improved significantly. The microwave link in Tagatay is finalized and testing continues. The tower installation at the Antipolo site continues. Negotiations are ongoing with authorities and UNDSS to secure repeater sites in Metro Manila and frequency licensing. A joint United Nations/NDCC assessment of the Mayon volcano was conducted last week. The cluster continues to provide technical support to the humanitarian community in Metro Manila.

Gaps and Challenges: United Nations/Humanitarian sub-office hubs in the affected areas have not yet been confirmed.

IV. Coordination

OCHA and IASC information managers continue to develop a “Who does What Where” tool to improve coordination and avoid duplication of assistance.

The first GRP Information Management Network meeting took place on 26 November. A joint GRP IM Network/IASC IM Network is planned for the coming week.

V. Funding

The FTS reports that as of 24 November, the revised Philippines 2009 Flash Appeal has been 23.4 percent funded, having received \$33 million of the revised request for \$143.77 million.

The Shelter Cluster (excluding NFIs) has targeted 67,500 households for support but has received less than 10 percent Flash Appeal funding to date. Additional fundraising efforts are ongoing by the cluster.

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

The mission of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) is to mobilize and coordinate effective and principled humanitarian action in partnership with national and international actors.

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