

This report was compiled and issued by OCHA Philippines on behalf of humanitarian partners and is based on information provided by the clusters. As such, it reflects the position of OCHA and the humanitarian community. It covers the period from 11 to 13 January 2012. The next report will be issued on or around 17 January 2012.

I. HIGHLIGHTS/KEY PRIORITIES

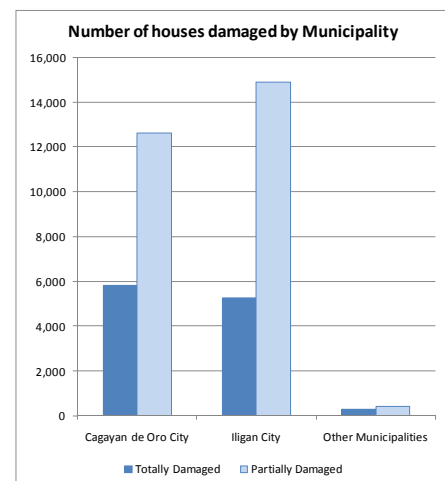
- Registration and profiling of the displaced in and outside of evacuation centres are on-going
- Philippines Human Rights body (CHRP) is developing policy on rights of the displaced
- Stronger coordination of temporary and permanent shelter initiatives is required to ensure a smooth transition from relief to reconstruction
- Multiple coordinated cash- and food-for-work schemes provide temporary livelihood opportunities to the displaced, long-term livelihood
- Construction of WASH and common facilities and establishment of dedicated child- and women-friendly spaces are key to secure appropriate conditions in evacuation centres and relocation sites

II. Situation Overview

Nearly four weeks ago heavy rains brought by the Tropical Storm Washi, known locally as Sendong, swept through 13 provinces of northern Mindanao, triggering flash floods and landslides. More than 220,000 people have been forced to flee their homes as a result. To date, they remain in evacuation centres (ECs), transit sites, with host families and in makeshift shelters. The Government and aid agencies have been working ever since to provide much needed relief to the most affected. Shelter, food, water and sanitation, health and psycho-social support and other vital assistance continue to be provided, while medium- and long-term solutions that will allow for rebuilding of livelihoods and strengthening the resilience of affected communities are being developed and implemented.

Shelter assistance remains a key priority and includes management of existing ECs and transit sites, on-going construction of temporary sites (to accommodate those currently in ECs and other families in urgent need of shelter for a period of 3-to-6 months) and development of permanent housing on relocation sites (to be available as early as July 2012). The main challenge is to ensure that those returning to their places of origin will also be provided with shelter support and that all those who lost their dwellings are informed of housing options available to them.

An initial profiling of people in need of shelter assistance identified two groups, according to their status before the disaster: informal settler families, most of whom have no access to formal financial assistance and stable sources of income, and formal settler families, mostly salaried workers. It has been also determined that, unlike the informal settlers, who chose to seek refuge in ECs or makeshift shelters close to their areas of origin, formal settlers opted for rented accommodations or remain with host families. Although significant data has been collected to date regarding housing required for the displaced remaining in ECs, very little information is available on the number and needs of those outside ECs. Current estimates, based on the number of houses destroyed (totally or partially), indicate that nearly 30,000 families in Cagayan de Oro (CDO) and Iligan would need to be provided with alternative shelter. This total estimated number does not include those whose houses were not damaged, but stand within the Government-designated 'no build' zones (areas within 20m from the riverbanks).



Source: DSWD, 13 January

In Iligan, the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) has undertaken an assessment of select areas in the city that have been severely affected. According to a preliminary report, 26 out of the 34 sitios examined in the villages of Santiago, Santa Felomina and Hinaplanon are recommended as 'no build zones' in their entirety or in part. There are reports of some displaced returning to Bayug Island, wiped out by flash floods and assessed by MGB as non-residential. Meanwhile, the Iligan City Mayor considers declaring a

moratorium on the construction of dwelling in the areas affected by the flooding, particularly along the banks of Mandulog and Iligan rivers.

Under the Government's Permanent Housing Plan (PHP) announced at the Shelter Summit held in CDO on 11 January, all the affected groups, including those who have not lost their house but whose dwellings are located within the 'no build' zones, will be provided with some type of shelter assistance. The Plan states that the reconstruction of permanent housing will be led by the National Housing Authority (NHA). A task force has also been established, Local Inter-agency Committee (LIAC), to coordinate the permanent housing phase under the leadership of the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC). For formal settler families, the Plan envisages provision of housing loans and repair/construction material as well as site upgrading subject to geo-hazard clearance. In contrast, the informal settler families would be resettled to the planned permanent or temporary relocation sites or, if their dwellings remain outside of the 'no build' zones, would be provided with housing material and site upgrading. Additional arrangements are still required in terms of property rights, ease of access to this assistance and measures that would prevent spontaneous re-settlements in 'no build' zones.

According to the National Disaster Risk Reductions and Management Council (NDRRMC), Government agencies and aid organisations have assisted to date more than 430,000 people of the total of more than 1.1 million affected by the storm. The Philippines Red Cross also provided hot meals, food, water and NFIs to up to 93,000 of the affected in 6 provinces: CDO, Iligan, Zamboanga Del Norte, Surigao Del Sur, Bukidnon and Negros Oriental.

III. Humanitarian Needs and Response



CAMP COORDINATION AND MANAGEMENT / NON-FOOD ITEMS / SHELTER

Needs: The Camp Coordination and Management and NFIs cluster, co-chaired by IOM and Shelter cluster, co-chaired by IFRC, aims to provide shelter, emergency shelter repair kits and other NFIs to some 47,100 families, in particular the 38,556 families whose houses were destroyed and damaged.

The cluster identified the following priority needs: (i) collection of disaggregated data for all groups of the displaced, with particular attention to determining the number of displaced in host families and in rented accommodations, (ii) identification of alternative relocation sites to begin decongestion of ECs within school grounds, (iii) upgrading of EC facilities to fully meet the needs of the displaced leading to enhanced conditions and privacy in ECs, and (iv) improving information-gathering and dissemination among partners.

Response: More than 800 temporary shelters are planned to meet the needs of those relocating from ECs. To date, 892 tents have been prepositioned, with additional 2,000 in the pipeline. Repair and rehabilitation support is planned for over 9,000 households in both CDO and Iligan.

In Calaanan I temporary relocation site, 365 tents are now occupied, and 150 tents are ready to be erected. In Lumbia, 21 bunkhouses are being laid out, with one unit fully completed. Meanwhile, tents have been provided to families in Indahag school and the new transit sites in Lumboy, Gusa, Canitoan.

Tracking of construction material prices is being carried out by the Department of Trade and Industries (DTI) Region X. At present, there is no noticeable increase in prices, but agencies express difficulties in sourcing coco lumber, a key component for the construction of temporary shelter, due to coconut farmers' lack of willingness to cut down coconut trees. Assessments of NFI needs to the returning displaced and those who remain in ECs are also underway.

Land continues to be identified for both temporary and permanent relocations. Temporary shelter options and solutions are being formalised in the technical working group led by IOM. Various options are also explored in Iligan for the transitional phase. ACTED agreed to support the Shelter cluster in identifying the overall shelter requirements. Agencies are currently constructing model housing units to obtain feedback from the communities.

Gaps & Constraints: Previously reported gaps/constraints remain valid. The number of families who were not displaced but whose dwellings are within the 20m 'no build' zone and, thus, will require relocation needs to be determined. Stronger coordination between temporary shelter and permanent housing initiatives is required to ensure a smooth transition from emergency to reconstruction.



WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH)

Needs: The WASH cluster members focus on improving water, sanitation and hygiene access for some 150,000 affected people, including 25,000 of the displaced who remain in ECs and transit sites.

Response: Further enhancements of the water supply system completed by the Water District have resulted in improved supply in CDO. Water-trucking to some areas will be reduced in the coming days, subject to verification of water quality in the system. Water is also being trucked to seven ECs where no piped water is available. Household water disinfection products have been distributed in three sites with wells. Water-quality and -quantity checks are performed daily by the City Health Office (CHO) sanitary inspectors. In Iligan, some \$375,000 is needed to restore the damaged water infrastructure. Assessments are on-going in suburban areas meant to inform the establishment of additional water treatment units. Iligan City WD is also repairing/constructing 21 shallow wells. Two additional bladders have been established to improve water-trucking efficiency. Discussions are underway to establish monitoring system similar to that in CDO.

The cluster has agreed on the ratios and types of WASH facilities to be made available in ECs and temporary and permanent sites. A sanitation strategy should be released in the coming days, including the design of emergency latrines to be used in transit sites.

To date, the WASH cluster distributed 7,143 hygiene kits and 9,795 jerry cans in CDO, and 3,455 hygiene kits and 9,079 jerry cans in Iligan. More distributions outside of ECs are being planned.

Gaps & Constraints: Construction of WASH facilities must be sped up; extended use of portable toilets is not cost efficient and will require significant, additional funding. Continued advocacy is required to ensure that family latrines are provided with all permanent and core housing; funding for these latrines is not included in the existing WASH response plans.



FOOD SECURITY

Needs: With more beneficiaries being identified in Cagayan de Oro, Iligan and rural areas of Lanao del Sur, the number of affected persons requiring immediate food assistance has increased beyond the previous target of 250,000. The Food Security cluster is progressively shifting the focus of its interventions from EC-based families to the displaced outside of ECs and their host families, particularly those in remote and inaccessible areas, some of which can be only accessed by air (Panaroganan and Mainit) or military trucks (Rogongon, Kalilangan, Digkilaan and Bonbonon in Iligan and Tagoloan and Kapai in Lanao del Sur (LDS)). In addition to supporting debris-clearing and school repairs through food-for-work schemes, the cluster will also support emergency school feeding programmes.

Response: To date, an estimated 209,180 persons out of the targeted 250,000 beneficiaries have received emergency food support. Emergency food aid continued to reach the targeted populations in remote and inaccessible areas (as per previous report).

Food-for-Work projects (including debris-clearing and schools repairs) are benefitting a total of 1,680 families in Carmen, Balulang, Canitoan, and Iponan villages in CDO.

Gaps & Constraints: Tracking of beneficiaries, especially those in host communities, remains a challenge. Other reported constraints remain valid.



LOGISTICS

Needs: The Logistics Cluster aim is to support the humanitarian community to deliver life-saving assistance to some 471,000 displaced people, including those remaining in ECs as well as those seeking refuge with relatives or in makeshift shelters.

Response: In addition to the on-going activities reported previously, the cluster made available a warehouse space in Iligan to assist aid agencies with their storage needs. The cluster continued to work with OCD, DSWD, Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), local government units (LGUs) and other clusters to ensure that relief goods can be dispatched and delivered promptly.

Gaps & Constraints: Same as previously reported.



PROTECTION, INCLUDING CHILD PROTECTION AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

Needs: The Protection cluster, co-chaired by UNHCR, supports 36,500 extremely vulnerable individuals. During the first phase, essential items are delivered to families to ensure protection and safety. Second phase focuses on community-based activities to help decongest ECs, stabilize communities and find durable solutions, particularly those in remote communities, those additionally impacted by the on-going armed conflict, and people with specific needs. The cluster also provides advice on humanitarian assistance and relocation.

The Child Protection sub-cluster, co-chaired by UNICEF, targets another 200,000 people through child protection activities. The aim is to enhance the capacity of DSWD, LGUs and other clusters; protect children from abuse, exploitation and trafficking; support and assist in reunifying separated and unaccompanied children; and ensure safe-play and recreation areas are provided them to assist in return to normalcy and to aid the healing process.

The gender-based violence (GBV) sub-cluster, co-chaired by UNFPA, aims to support 100,000 affected people, mostly displaced women and girls. It does so through reduction of GBV risks in displacement and prospective return areas; supporting capacity building within relevant government agencies; GBV prevention in and around ECs; provision of medical and psycho-social services to displaced survivors; and mainstreaming gender and GBV prevention into other humanitarian activities.

Response: By 12 January, UNHCR, with DSWD and local NGOs, distributed protection items to 13,602 families (68,563 people) in remote areas affected by the storm and on-going armed conflict. This included 9,080 blankets, 4,094 plastic sheets, 109 plastic rolls, 3,033 kitchen sets, 2,331 jerry cans, 3,138 hygiene kits, 1,355 garbs, 1,332 synthetic mats, 2,183 shovels, 1,718 garden hoses, 694 ropes, and 734 pails.

The Commission on Human Rights of the Philippines (CHRP) is developing a policy position to be shared with all stakeholders to ensure rights of the displaced are protected during the process of relocation of the displaced and closure of ECs.

By 10 January, UNICEF and child protection groups have conducted psycho-social support (PSS) activities for more than 5,456 children in CDO and Iligan. Children engage in play therapy, art work, and storytelling activities using child-friendly spaces (CFS) kits. Additional 72 volunteers were trained to assist teachers in conducting classes. DSWD is managing 21 cases of separated and unaccompanied children in CDO, of those three have been reunified with their families. DSWD is also handling similar cases in Iligan. A core group for family tracing and reunification (FTR) and social case work management was organized to cover 41 ECs.

GBV sub-cluster conducted 20 information sessions and distributed 1,172 dignity kits. In addition, 12 camp managers were oriented on the cluster approach and GBV prevention and response measures that should be put in place. The cluster is providing training on PSS to 70 social workers in LGUs. GBV prevention measures had been incorporated in temporary shelter guidelines. DSWD agreed to set up of women-friendly spaces in ECs and relocation sites.

Gaps & Constraints: Preliminary UNHCR study revealed an urgent need to rebuild almost totally damaged houses in affected rural communities and provide them with livelihoods. Partial disaggregated data on vulnerable groups have been shared, but need to be verified and completed. Other protection concerns reported remain valid.

GBV emergency referral mechanisms are lacking in remote villages. Strategic areas in ECs, transition and relocation sites for women-friendly spaces need to be identified. Progress on the findings/results of the SGBV safety audit is not monitored. Some service providers need training on FTR, PSS and social work case management.



EDUCATION

Needs: The Education Cluster plans to assist some 210,000 affected school children, many of them in CDO and Iligan cities, by providing early childhood care and development and basic education, strengthening child rights and protective mechanisms in learning institutions and enhancing teachers' capacity to provide psycho-social support (PSS). The cluster is also arranging and sustaining emergency school activities in and outside ECs, as ECs in school grounds are gradually decongested or closed.

Response: Cluster members continued to provide emergency education supplies in support to resumption of regular classes in affected schools and day care centres. Technical and logistics support (e.g. school tents, learning kits) has been provided in support of informal sessions, available also to the displaced children, in temporary learning spaces. Trained PSS volunteers have been deployed alongside professional PSS teams already operating in various schools. Early learning kits and school tents for temporary learning spaces were prepositioned in damaged day care centres and relocation sites under development. The education sub-cluster has been activated in Iligan.

Gaps & Constraints: Same as previously reported.



HEALTH, INCLUDING REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

Needs: The Health cluster aims to assist some 300,000 affected people, including 10,000 pregnant and lactating women (PLW), 20,000 young people and 5,000 family planning users through provision of life-saving care to injured, psycho-social support to the affected, monitoring, prevention and, should it become necessary, containing disease outbreaks and addressing reproductive health needs of the displaced populations.

Response: Rates of Leptospirosis, acute watery diarrhoea (AWD), measles and chicken pox are being closely watched through the Surveillance in Post Extreme Emergencies and Disasters (SPEED) system. There are more than 50 public and non-government organizations providing health services and mental health (MH) and PSS as part of the health cluster. Mobile health services, Leptospirosis prophylaxis, vaccinations, prenatal care, health education and information campaigns are ongoing in ECs, transit sites and affected communities. A total of 1,462 PLW in CDO, Iligan, and LDS have been provided with dignity kits, clean delivery kits, blankets and women's underwear through nine reproductive health (RH) missions led by UNFPA. In addition, a RH working group has been organised in Iligan. MHPSS referral systems from ECs to specialised care facilities have also been activated in CDO and Iligan.

Gaps & Constraints: Strengthening of coordination and capacity of MHPSS is needed. Planning for the construction/reconstruction of health facilities in relocation sites and affected areas is also required. Dynamic geographic mapping of health services, health workforce and diseases to facilitate disease surveillance and decision making is being considered.



NUTRITION

Needs: The Nutrition cluster targets 42,000 children under five years of age (U5) and 22,750 PLW in and outside of ECs. Priority areas of intervention include: (i) protection and promotion of appropriate infant and young child feeding (IYCF) practices; (ii) provision of micronutrient supplementation to children aged 6-to-59 months; (iii) ensuring access to appropriate, life-saving treatment for some 1,600 children aged 6-59 months suffering from severe and moderate acute malnutrition, and (iv) timely nutrition surveillance and assessment of IYCF practices in ECs, relocation sites and within host communities.

Response: The cluster continues to monitor the situation and provide services for infants, children and PLW. To date, 2,413 children aged 6-59 months in 20 out of 44 ECs were screened for acute malnutrition. Of them, 27 were found to be severely and 93 moderately malnourished (translating into global acute malnutrition rate of 5.0 per cent: 1.1 per cent severe and 3.9 per cent moderate). Assessments conducted in 20 ECs indicated no major changes in breastfeeding practices. Screening for acute malnutrition and assessments of IYCF practices outside the ECs in Iligan will start next week.

Mobile clinics with capacity to treat severe acute malnutrition will be operational from 16 January. The second round of blanket distribution of ready-to-use supplementary food has reached 2,684 children in 23 ECs. Nutrition cluster partners have also mobilized 65 skilled IYCF counselors. The distribution of micronutrient powder has been scaled up to 19 ECs, reaching 1,698 children. DOH reported that more than 90 per cent of children in ECs have received vitamin A supplementation and will continue to target those who have not.

Gaps & Constraints: Assistance provided to women and children living with host families or in makeshift shelters remains insufficient; the cluster plans to address this gap. Additional capacity to conduct nutrition surveys in the most affected communities is also needed.



EARLY RECOVERY

Needs: Debris-clearing and clean-up in 53 affected villages (barangays) remain the main focus of the cluster. This is being achieved through cash- and food-for-work programmes meant to provide some 39,300 families with opportunities to rebuild their livelihoods and to ensure their access to food.

Response: DSWD Region X has allocated a total of \$640,000 for cash-for-work activities aimed at construction of shelters and repair of damaged houses and infrastructure. In CDO alone, a total of 1,700 families have already benefited from this intervention. The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) continued its debris clearing and clean-up activities, focusing mainly on main roads, access roads and school compounds.

The Office of Civil Defense (OCD) convened the first Early Recovery (ER) cluster meeting on 12 January 2012 to initiate discussions on ER-related activities that will help facilitate a smooth transition towards longer-term development. A consensus was reached on the need to strengthen inter-agency coordination to address ER needs, including those related to shelter and livelihoods, and to plan for longer-term recovery and rehabilitation.

Gaps & Constraints: Same as previously reported.



LIVELIHOODS

Needs: The Livelihoods cluster aims to assist people affected by loss of livelihoods, with focus on those displaced in ECs and relocation sites. The cluster plans to provide livelihood starter kits and cash-for-work programmes (debris-clearing and construction of core shelter units) to help them rebuild their lives and contribute to the overall peace and security, while ensuring their safety and health.

Response: Cluster members, including trade unions, are consolidating profiles of affected families, both in and outside ECs. This also includes the tracking cash-for-work and other livelihood activities. It is estimated that up to 250 beneficiaries per affected barangay have already benefitted from DSWD-run programmes. In addition, the Department of Labour and Employment (DOLE) Region X provided \$20,000 to some 88 families headed by informal workers; this assistance included “starter kits for women”. DOLE has also prepared proposals of additional cash-for-work programmes for 2,327 families and livelihood projects meant to benefit another 1,705 families.

Gaps & Constraints: On-going cash-for-work activities are only short-term solutions and will need to be replaced by more sustainable livelihoods.

IV. Coordination

Profiling of the displaced is on-going. For example, IOM is completing its Displacement Tracking Matrix, while UNFPA has undertaken gender-based violence audits for both CDO and Iligan cities. WFP and Community and Family Services International (CSFI) have also reconciled the profiles of the families that they serve. The Iligan Chamber of Commerce offered a database containing information on the displaced lifted from EC ‘intake cards’ of CSWDO covering 10,000 families. This information system can possibly be utilized to crosscheck or validate CSWD/DSWD data, and will also be useful for future emergency response, particularly with respect to information on relocated or resettled families.

Also in Iligan, city social welfare officers and camp managers seconded by DSWD Region X are undertaking in-depth profiling of the displaced both in and outside of ECs using the ‘family access cards’. OCHA is mobilising professionals and volunteers from Mindanao State University Iligan Institute of Technology (MSU-IIT) to support the data entry process to better inform response planning across all sectors. The City Social Welfare and Development Office (CSWDO) and DSWD aim to finalize the dataset by 16 January.

Cash-for-work programmes are being coordinated through a dedicated working group to ensure equitable access to income-generating activities for all displaced, particularly female-headed households which remain amongst the most vulnerable. The group will also ensure that remuneration provided is synchronized and reflective of the nature of work performed (debris-clearing, school clean-up, maintenance of WASH facilities).

The Government and aid agencies are preparing to conduct joint, multi-cluster assessments which are meant to identify gaps and inform the revision of the current response plan, taking into account evolution of the situation and needs.

Of note, the Mayor of Iligan has now accepted the implementation of the cluster approach for managing the response.

V. Funding

According to the Department of Foreign Affairs, the amount of bi-lateral aid provided in the aftermath of the disaster stands at 22.4 million. This includes \$11.5 million in cash and \$5.3 million in-kind contributions and \$5.6 million worth of pledges.

The amount of funding secured for the activities outlined in the Flash Appeal, launched by the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) on 22 December 2011, reached \$7.45 million or 26 per cent. This amount includes the \$3 million disbursed from the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF). Funds provided to date include \$2.7 million for emergency shelter (30 per cent of the required \$9 million), \$2.1 million for WASH interventions (47 per cent of the \$4.5 million requested), \$2.2 million for emergency food distributions (26 per cent of the required \$8.5 million) and \$400,000 for logistics support (63% of the \$637,000 requested).

All humanitarian partners including donors and recipient agencies are encouraged to inform FTS of cash and in-kind contributions by contacting fts@un.org.

VI. Contact

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