

Cagayan De Oro City Rapid Needs Assessment Summary Report

19 December 2011

1. Introductory information:

Cagayan De Oro is one of the worst-affected cities by the Tropical Storm Sendong. Out of the 80 Barangays of the City, 24 are affected. A total of 714 displaced families are housed in five major evacuation centers across the city.

2. Key Findings:

- a) **Relief assistance (Food and Non-Food):** So far, those in evacuation centers are dependent on relief. They have received food and non-food items (NFIs) from national and local governments, private sectors and individuals as well as NGOs. Barangay Local Government Units (LGUs) have actively provided support to the victims. However, the food supply will be exhausted within days. In addition, there is acute shortage of kitchen utensils even if food commodities are available.
- b) **Water supply:** Overall there is a shortage of water supply, particularly potable water in the evacuation centers. The Bureau of Fire Protection has provided water for sanitation. Bottled water has been supplied by private donors, but it is inadequate.
- c) **Sanitation:** Generally, evacuation centers are over-crowded and sanitation issues are a serious concern.
- d) **Health:** There are health centers in most of the evacuation centers but there are also reports of barangay health stations (BHS) being severely damaged. Major health concerns include: respiratory disease, diarrhoea, wounds and skin diseases. Current supply of medicines in those health posts may last for 3-7 days.
 - (i) Reproductive health: Pregnant women are resorting to home deliveries because BHS, which also served as lying-in clinic, are rendered non-functional due to the floods. Deliveries with complications are referred to hospitals.
 - (ii) Psychosocial: Young people were observed to be at a loss on how to deal with the tragedy with most either loitering around the disaster site with no clear direction while others were mechanically gathering what was left of their belongings which they had to let dry on the side streets. A lot of young men are seen loitering around the affected communities in groups or simply watching what is happening from the sidelines.
- e) **Shelter:** Most of the houses along the river bank (Cagayan River) are totally damaged. Some of the community facilities such as BHS, Material Recovery Facility and Kindergarten School have been flooded and damaged.
- f) **Camp Management:** Most evacuation centers lack IDP profiling and organized camp management committees to monitor gaps/needs and coordinate the delivery of relief goods.
- g) **Protection Issues:** There are reported cases of unaccompanied children and children taken care of by relatives. People with special needs, elderly, lactating women in the evacuation centers, single parents are not given appropriate attention. Information management mechanisms are

not in place such as registration of IDPs, identification of the dead, and accounting of missing people.

- (i) **Gender-based Violence (GBV):** No reported cases of GBV. The general lack of hygiene facilities and supplies is exacerbated by the absence of measures intended to decrease the risk of GBV from happening in the sites. The few available toilets are being used by both women and men with most of these having no locks and proper lighting.
- h) **Education:** A number of schools and teachers are severely affected by the flooding. Schooling will be affected for those schools used as evacuation centers as well as those which are severely damaged.
- i) **Nutrition:** No distribution of milk formulas. Vitamin A supplements for children is needed.

3. Priority Needs:

- a) **Non-food-items**, including kitchen utensils, blankets, sleeping mats, jerry cans
- b) **WASH facilities:** water, hygiene kits and latrines
- c) **Food items:** Ready-to-eat food with appropriate nutrition (not just noodles and rice)
- d) **Debris clean-up:** Much of the affected barangays have piles of debris including carcasses, submerged vehicles and household items. The areas have started to develop stench from the debris.

4. Recommendations:

Based on interviews with affected communities and LGUs, the top four priorities deserve immediate action. **In the short-term**, NFIs, WASH and food should be provided to the victims who are in evacuation centers. Debris clean-up is top priority among the affected-communities. In addition, temporary shelter should be provided before school resumes (post-christmas), so it will not disrupt schooling. The other priority is to give particular attention to those who might have been severely affected but staying outside of evacuation centers, and provision of psychosocial support especially to children and young men and women.

In the medium-term, in-depth assessment and analysis is required to look into concerns of early recovery and rehabilitation as well as health.

In the long-term, Cagayan de Oro needs to review its entire disaster management structure, including early-warning procedures and preparedness. Issues of zoning and identification of possible relocation sites need to be looked into. Information mechanism should also be in place to track affected population such as those who are displaced, dead or missing.