

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 14 to 17 January 2012. The next report will be issued on 20 January 2012.

I. HIGHLIGHTS/KEY PRIORITIES

- Second phase of the joint multi-cluster rapid assessments has begun with focus on remote, under-assessed areas affected by the storm
- Relevant information on planned relocations needs to be shared with all stakeholders, particularly the displaced to enable them to make conscious decisions about the future of their families
- Shelter solutions must be developed in consultation with all the displaced, including vulnerable groups
- Emergency school feeding programme was launched targeting up to 40,000 children

II. Situation Overview

Exactly one month ago, Tropical Storm Washi, known locally as Sendong, sent torrents of water, mud and logs cascading through villages and two major cities in northern Mindanao, damaging some 51,757 houses (of which 14,705 were totally destroyed) and infrastructure (bridges and roads). The death toll stands at 1,257 and as many as 182 remain missing. Another 6,071 people were injured. The disaster, which struck in the early morning hours of 17 December 2011, affected a total of 1,141,242 people (120,233 families) and destroyed thousands of livelihoods in 13 provinces, according to the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC). Government agencies estimate the total damage to livelihoods and infrastructure at US\$ 33.5 million.

Hours after the disaster hit, the Government and aid agencies have launched a large-scale, joint relief operation and have since been providing life-saving assistance to some 431,235 people, the majority of whom lost their homes and were forced to seek shelter in evacuations centres (ECs) or with host families and in makeshift shelters in their areas of origin.

A joint multi-cluster initial rapid assessment, conducted within 72 hours of the disaster, allowed to develop a plan of immediate interventions for the initial period of three months. Emergency shelter, food, water and sanitation, protection (including protection from sexual and gender-based violence), medical and psycho-social care as well as recovery of livelihoods remain key areas of the response.

One month on, mindful of the evolution of the situation and existing information gaps, the Office of Civil Defense (OCD) and the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) launched a second-phase joint multi-cluster assessment to allow for a more in-depth analysis of the impact of the disaster and of the on-going response, and for better definition of needs. As requested by the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT), OCHA and WFP are currently supporting the Government and the humanitarian community in this effort by providing facilitation and coordination capacity. In addition to supplementing the existing information collected during the initial rapid assessment and data gathered



through established monitoring systems, the current process is meant to provide strong evidence for adjustment of the on-going response plan through proper prioritisation of needs and groups to be assisted. Particular focus will also be placed on remote areas, on which little information has been gathered to date. The collection of data is to be completed by 19 January.

Although the initial estimates put the number of people displaced by the disaster at 430,000, movements of the displaced, some of whom returned to their areas of origin along the disaster-prone riverbanks, have been reported since, making it difficult to define the extent of the problem. The total number of the displaced in Cagayan de Oro and Iligan alone is now estimated at 223,446 people (29,940 families), 25,966 of which (or 5,457 families) continue to seek shelter in 40 existing ECs and another 197,480 individuals (24,483 families) remain with host families and in makeshift shelters. This is a significant change in comparison to the first week from the disaster when up to 67,000 people were registered in more than 60 ECs, many of them in school grounds. This number dropped significantly ahead of the resumption of class activities on 3 January.

Displacement figures for other provinces are yet to be confirmed. In general, much more information is required on the needs of the affected in hinterland areas outside of Iligan and other remote, suburban areas in Lanao del Norte (LDN), Lanao del Sur (LDS), Bukidnon and Misamis Oriental, many of which remain inaccessible by road.

Considering the extent of internal displacement and the fact the survivors have remained 'homeless' for a month now, provision of shelter, together with adequate water, sanitation and hygiene as well as women- and children-friendly facilities, has become top priority for the Government and aid agencies. A few relocation sites have already been identified and are being prepared for immediate temporary occupancy. They will help to ease the overcrowding in ECs and provide shelter to some of the most vulnerable groups, and for permanent relocation housing later this year. However, acquiring land for the relocation sites remains the key challenge, particularly that the land secured needs to provide the displaced with livelihood opportunities.

The priority of the humanitarian community is to ensure that the relocation of families from informal settlements, particularly the riverbank areas deemed hazardous and disaster-prone and declared by the Government 'no build' zone, to permanent sites takes place in a coherent, safe and dignified manner. At the moment, there is still little clarity as to who will be relocated to which site and when. Aid agencies are providing continuous support to the Government so that all relevant information is provided to all the displaced about relocation plans and sites to enable them to make decisions regarding their future.

Table 1: Government figures on casualties, affected populations and damaged houses

Region	Deaths	Missing	Injured	Displaced			Affected		Damaged Houses	
				Total	in ECs	not in ECs	People	Brgys	Totally	Partially
Region VII				69,675	3,875	65,800	82,556	126	1,399	6,352
Region IX							4,947	15	9	0
Region X	1,195	157	6,016	285,238	22,448	262,790	894,142	197	13,060	28,045
<i>Cagayan de Oro</i>	<i>693</i>			<i>161,748</i>	<i>13,081</i>	<i>148,667</i>	<i>342,400</i>	<i>46</i>	<i>7,317</i>	<i>12,635</i>
<i>Iligan City</i>	<i>460</i>			<i>58,180</i>	<i>9,367</i>	<i>48,813</i>	<i>483,165</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>5,249</i>	<i>14,874</i>
Region XI				1,360	150	1,210	5,080	14	16	2
Region XIII							14,648	29	165	2,502
ARMM				74,962		74,962	139,879	419	56	151
Total	1,257	182	6,071	431,235	26,473	404,762	1,141,252	800	14,705	37,052

Source: NDRRMC, 17 January

III. Humanitarian Needs and Response



CAMP COORDINATION AND MANAGEMENT AND NON-FOOD ITEMS

Needs: The Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) and NFI cluster, co-chaired by IOM, aims to provide emergency shelter repair kits and other NFIs to the displaced families. It also supports the 40 existing ECs in both CDO and Iligan.

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 transit sites to facilitate decongestion of ECs set up 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: The cluster is fast-tracking the identification and validation of the displaced families outside and inside ECs, facilitating profiling of the displaced in ECs and assessing NFI needs of all the displaced.

Emergency repair kits and NFIs are continually being distributed to the displaced. Additional partitions, bed kits, latrines and bathing cubicles have been provided in ECs. The cluster is exploring using the 'adopt-an-EC' concept to encourage local actors to become involved in EC management. The cluster also conducts daily monitoring in the Calaanan I temporary relocation site to which 408 families moved in.

Gaps & Constraints: Additional WASH facilities are needed in ECs and temporary relocation sites. Protection and security within ECs need to be re-enforced. Electrical facilities and camp management support are required for soon-to-be-occupied Lumbia and Calaanan II.

SHELTER

Needs: The Shelter cluster, led by IFRC, targets 38,556 families whose houses were destroyed or damaged. In CDO alone, close to 5,000 families will need to be prioritized for permanent relocation, including 2,740 families living in 'no build' zones have been identified and another 2,084 families remaining in ECs.

Response: A sector-specific assessment is being planned with the support from ACTED, targeting under-served areas and focusing on the shelter needs and gaps of those living with host families.

Temporary shelter: Site preparations are on-going on land identified for temporary relocations of up to 1,300 families (Calaanan I and II, Lumbia). However, aid agencies have planned only 850 temporary shelters and shortfall is expected in the coming days. Model temporary shelters are being constructed for the community and other stakeholders' feedback. A strategic advisory committee, composed of all relevant government actors, has been created to ensure consistency in lists of families relocating, uniformity of prioritisation criteria and safe and well-informed relocations. Support is also being provided to the Government on how to better inform the relocating families.

Permanent Housing: Site preparation for 500 houses in Lumbia (CDO) has begun and construction is expected to start this month. Ground breaking for Santa Elena (Iligan) is planned for 25 January 2012, with 1,600 families expected to relocate there. It has been agreed that, while formal settler families will come under the National Housing Authority (NHA) for housing loans and other support, DSWD will remain in charge of the informal settler families. A technical working group on Housing, Land and Property, joint initiative between the shelter and protection clusters, co-led by UN-Habitat and UNHCR, has been formed.

Gaps & Constraints: Land availability for temporary and permanent relocation sites remains the key challenge. Additional advocacy on tenure security of land for semi-permanent and permanent housing and standardisation of shelter support packages for those returning to their places of origin are also required.

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 some 25,000 of the displaced who remain in ECs and transit sites.

Response: Temporary connections from piped supply to ECs and overnight filling of centralised water storage tanks from piped network are used in 14 locations in CDO to improve water supply and reduce water-trucking. A water pipe network will be completed in the next two weeks in both Calaanan I and Lumbia. Water supply has improved in Iligan, with the establishment of four water storage points in major ECs and the addition of three trucks.

The Sanitation Technical Working Group met to define a strategy for up-scaling latrine construction. To date, 75 per cent of sites in CDO meet the WASH Strategy targets for latrines coverage, 14 per cent have a ratio of less than 1 latrine per 100 people, and 11 per cent exceed it.

Gaps & Constraints: Movement of the displaced to transit sites without adequate, prior planning of WASH facilities is a challenge. There is an urgent need for WASH agencies to include construction of toilet, bathing and laundry facilities in their response plans.

FOOD SECURITY

Needs: With more beneficiaries being identified in CDO, Iligan and rural areas of LDS, the number of the 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. In addition to supporting debris-clearing and construction of shelter through food-for-work schemes, the cluster will also support emergency school feeding programmes targeting 40,000 children and promoting return of children to schools.

Response: To date, almost 210,000 people benefitted from general good distributions. Emergency food assistance continues to reach un-served communities in remote and inaccessible areas through partnership with the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP). Plumpy'doz® was distributed to 10,682 children to maintain nutrition levels.

Some 3,522 people in CDO and Iligan are benefitting from food-for-work schemes; plans similar programmes in LDS are nearly complete. An emergency school feeding programme was launched on 16 January and will be scaled up to cover 75 per cent of children enrolled in school in the coming days. Funding permitting (\$500,000 required), WFP will implement a special cash-based programme targeting women, children and other vulnerable groups.

Gaps & Constraints: No additional gaps/constraints to report.



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, 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: The Protection cluster continued with the implementation of its programmes as reported on 13 January.

Child Protection Working Group (CPWG) members conducted psycho-social activities for another 3,060 children in CDO and Iligan ECs. Psycho-social support training was provided to 801 teachers and community leaders, in coordination with the Education cluster. More members initiated registering of separated and unaccompanied children. UNICEF and partners delivered another 75 child-friendly space kits and tarpaulins.

GBV sub-cluster adopted a one-stop shop referral system for survivors, with engagement from the Philippine National Police, the City Health Office and local women's organisations. GBV was integrated into reproductive health info sessions for displaced women, youth and men. Local municipal social workers have been trained in psycho-social processing to augment the existing capacity to provide such services to the displaced. The concept of 'women-friendly space' to be put up in ECs and relocation sites was defined.

Gaps & Constraints: In addition to gap/constraints reported previously, there are concerns about shortfalls in prioritisation of people with special needs housing, land and property plans. Remote and still inaccessible areas require protection intervention.

Community-Based Child Protection Network (CBCPN) and Family-Tracing and Reunification (FTR) system have not yet been established. Municipal social workers, camp managers and child protection professionals require additional training on FTR, psycho-social support (PSS) and social work case management (SWCM).

Women's committees need to be organised to ensure that women actively participate in planning and decision-making processes related to shelter.



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. 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: Temporary learning spaces (TLS) have been set up in major ECs. Cluster members are also focusing on affected preschoolers by supporting repairs of 68 day care centres and providing recreation kits.

Cluster members are in the process of mapping out and consolidating the results of an education in emergencies assessment to establish areas of complementation and overlap, specifically with respect to distribution of back-to-school kits and tents. The PSS task group, led by the Department of Education, is planning a meeting of all PSS focal groups to better coordinate PSS-initiatives for school children.

Gaps & Constraints: In addition to previously-reported gaps/constraints, there is a need to further strengthen coordination, cooperation and monitoring of distribution of emergency education assistance with PSS activities. Although some school-aged children relocated to transit sites are being accommodated within same or nearby school locations, many children remain idle, increasing the demand for temporary TLS.



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.

Response: The Surveillance in Post Extreme Emergencies and Disasters (SPEED) system is being used to monitor rates of Leptospirosis, Acute Watery Diarrhoea (AWD), typhoid fever, measles and chicken pox. MHPSS services and their coordination have improved.

A random survey of 126 displaced youth in 14 ECs in Iligan revealed the existence of risky behaviour in ECs, primarily smoking, drinking and, to a lesser extent, drugs consumption and premarital sex. Boys were more likely than girls to display such behaviour. Findings were validated by the camp managers.

Gaps & Constraints: In addition to gaps/constraints reported before, of note is the need to organise the displaced youth in ECs and engage them in more productive and gainful activities to avoid or reduce occurrence of risky behaviour, and prevent unplanned and unwanted pregnancies.



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 (SAM/MAM), and (iv) timely nutrition surveillance and assessment of IYCF practices in ECs, relocation sites and within host communities.

Response: Acute malnutrition screenings continue in and outside ECs. The rate of global acute malnutrition among the screened children is 5.1 per cent (3.9 per cent MAM and 1.2 per cent SAM). Four mobile clinics with capacity to treat children suffering from SAM have now been established. The second round of blanket distribution of ready-to-use supplementary food is on-going to prevent new cases of malnutrition.

Although no major changes in breastfeeding practices have been observed, several incidences of potential code violations with unsolicited donations, distribution of milk powder coupons and provision and use of breast milk substitutes or milk powder have been recorded and reported to DOH.

Gaps & Constraints: Children with MAM are at risk of becoming severely malnourished, and possibly dying, unless resources for a targeted supplementary feeding programme become available.



LIVELIHOODS

Needs: The Livelihoods cluster, co-chaired by ILO, 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: The Livelihoods cluster was activated at CDO and Iligan levels, with focal points for the consolidation of data on affected families and the monitoring of cash-for-work and other livelihood support programmes having been identified. The consolidated data will enable selection and prioritisation of beneficiaries. An in-depth assessment on damage to livelihoods is scheduled on the third week of January.

Gaps & Constraints: No additional gaps/constraints to report.

IV. Coordination

The UN Humanitarian Coordinator (HC) for the Philippines Jacqui Badcock travelled to Mindanao on 16 and 17 January to evaluate progress made to date and discuss with Government officials and aid agencies ways to ensure that the on-going relief efforts are adequate and equitable and to agree on the common way forward. She also participated in the weekly meeting of the Mindanao Humanitarian Team (MHT) in CDO and chaired the weekly meeting of the HCT in Iligan, both attended by Government officials. In addition, the HC visited relocation sites in CDO and an EC located in one of the most affected areas in centre of Iligan City, where residents are still struggling to clear the debris and mud from the flash flood. She also stopped at an elementary school from which displaced people are being transferred to a neighbouring community space, which will serve as transitional shelter until longer-term solution is identified for them.

Second phase of joint multi-cluster assessments, coordinated by OCHA and WFP on behalf of the Government and the HCT, has begun today. More than 50 trained assessors (officials from OCD, DSWD, DOH and aid agencies personnel) have been deployed to collect, over the next three days, primary data from as many as 22 villages (barangays) in four provinces, including remote villages which remain cut off and where no surveys of needs had been completed to date. The results will be channelled accordingly and serve as a basis for the enhancement of the existing common humanitarian action plan for the Washi (Sendong) response. The new plan will be presented in early February 2012 in the revised Flash Appeal, initial version of which was completed on the basis of joint multi-cluster initial rapid assessments completed on 20 December and launched two days later.

Data profiling of affected people, both inside and outside ECs, is continues to be conducted by the City Social Welfare and Development Office (CSWDO) with the assistance of local volunteers and LGU resources. The data reflects will provide information on where the affected populations originated from. Further profiling will ensue to determine whether they are inside or outside ECs. According to DSWD/CSWDO, the master list should be available on 20 January.

The Iligan City Government plans to call a summit on disaster risk reduction (DRR) and climate change 40 days after the tropical storm hit Mindanao. The event is to focus on enhancing the existing capacity of the Local Disaster Risk Reduction Management Council (LDRRMC) and the Barangay Disaster Risk Reduction Management Council (BDRRMC) and on raising awareness on disaster preparedness within communities in order to fully comply with the Republic Act 10121 (a document strengthening the Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM) System, providing for the National DRRM Framework and institutionalising the National DRRM Plan: http://www.ndrrmc.gov.ph/attachments/045_RA%2010121.pdf).

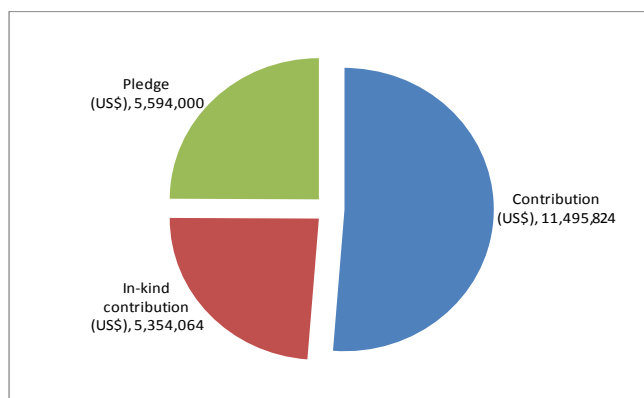
On 19 January, the National Development and Economic Authority (NEDA) will host a validation workshop on Characterization of the Disaster and Estimation of Damages, during which the Government's Losses Priority Programme and projects for immediate funding by the President will also be discussed. A special Regional Development Council (RDC) meeting will follow on 20 January and will focus on approval and submission of the recommendations to the President.

NEDA, as the socio-economic planning body of the RDC Secretariat, is currently consolidating reports on the estimation of damages and losses from various LGUs and government agencies. The Philippine

Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) and the Mines and Geosciences Board (MGB) are developing a characterisation of the disaster and profiling the watershed.

V. Funding

Table 2: Department of Foreign Affairs record of bilateral cash and in-kind contributions, and pledges



Source: DFA, 17 January

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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