

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 28 to 31 January 2012. The next report will be issued on or around 8 January 2012.

I. HIGHLIGHTS/KEY PRIORITIES

- Shelter assessment reports damage to 70% of houses in areas surveyed, with 30% of these dwellings having been destroyed or washed away
- To date, nearly 7,000 adults and 15,000 children have been provided with psycho-social support
- Up to 50% of logs and debris has been retrieved and cleared in coastline areas of Iligan; further clean-up works are urgently required outside city centers of Iligan and Cagayan de Oro
- Frequent milk code violations stress the urgent need for awareness-raising on breastfeeding rights of women and children
- On 3 February, the revised Flash Appeal will be launched in Manila by the Government and the UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator

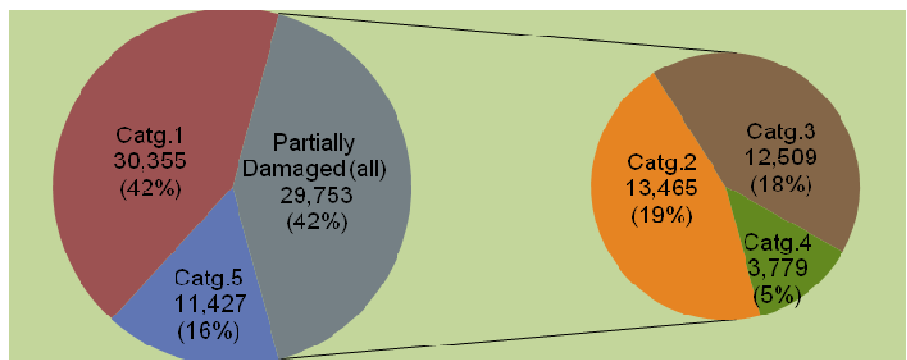
II. Situation Overview

A month and a half ago, Tropical Storm Washi, known locally as Sendong, devastated large parts of northern Mindanao, with flash floods and landslides damaging some 52,435 houses and infrastructure (bridges, roads, community facilities). The death toll stands at 1,257, as many as 181 are still missing and more than 6,000 were injured. The livelihoods of about 624,600 people have been affected, and as many as 553,600 people were forced to flee their homes.

Since the start of the emergency, and as a result of the immediate large-scale relief operation led by the Government and national and international aid agencies, more than 430,000 have been provided with vital assistance to date. However, there are still needs and concerns to be addressed to enable the affected to return their lives to normalcy and rebuild their livelihoods. These concerns and needs will be addressed through relief and early recovery programmes included in the adjusted response plans, presented in the Revised Flash Appeal document, to be launched on 3 February in Manila. Maintaining and improving essential services and providing basic goods to the displaced remaining in emergency centres and transitional sites, those living outside of 'camps' and host communities themselves are the key priorities, complemented by cash-for-work and food-for-work programmes providing immediate livelihood opportunities.

To ensure a better-targeted response to shelter needs, the Shelter Cluster conducted a technical and socio-economic assessment of housing needs between 22 and 28 January. Data was collected from 62 villages (barangays) across 10 municipalities, covering almost all affected regions. The surveys and focus group discussions considered all of the areas of concern referred to above. Specific needs of female heads of households; pregnant and lactating women; separated, unaccompanied and orphaned children; and those who are unable to rehabilitate or reconstruct their homes independently have also been recorded. Damage to housing was assessed and classified in accordance with the following categories: (i) no damage; (ii) flood and mudflow damage; (iii) partial, minor damage; (iv) partial, major damage; and (v) totally destroyed or washed away. Damage to as many as 70 per cent of homes was recorded, of which 30 per cent have been completely destroyed or washed away. Of people whose houses have been damaged, 77 per cent are living at or below the poverty line. Many of the partially damaged houses have been damaged by floodwaters and

Table 1: Categories of housing damage



Source: ACTED, Shelter Assessment

mud and require debris removal and cleaning, while the remainder have limited structural damage. Major damage was reported for only 14 per cent of the houses reported to be 'partially damaged'. The findings of this assessment will enable a better informed inter-cluster strategy to be developed for the rebuilding of homes and livelihoods, while also ensuring basic needs are met.

III. Humanitarian Needs and Response



CAMP COORDINATION AND MANAGEMENT AND NON-FOOD ITEMS

Needs: The Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) and NFI cluster, led by DSWD and co-led by IOM, aims to provide emergency shelter repair kits and other NFIs to the displaced families. It also supports the 35 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 in 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: In addition to previously reported activities, the cluster established a NFI monitoring system and will deploy NFI tracking teams.

Gaps & Constraints: The tracking of movements of the displaced remains a challenge.



SHELTER

Needs: The Shelter cluster, led by DSWD and co-led by IFRC, targets up to 39,400 families in Region X whose houses were destroyed or damaged. The Shelter cluster will prioritise its support towards the 13,850 families whose houses have incurred minor and major structural damage and who live at or below the poverty line, as well as all 11,427 families with totally destroyed houses. (This represents 64 per cent of the 39,400 families currently living in ECs, transitory sites, rented accommodation, with host families and in makeshift shelters on sites of destroyed houses or in damaged houses.)

The cluster will also ensure that the shelters provided meet the agreed standards. Land availability and tenure security remains the key outstanding needs. Transitional shelter needs are expected to increase as delays in the construction of permanent shelters are expected. Also, prolonged stays in tented sites will lead to the need for further upgrading and improvements of these sites.

Response: To date, over 1,600 family tents have been set up in transitory sites in both CDO and Iligan cities, with 1,300 more to be erected shortly. Other on-going activities continued.

Gaps & Constraints: No additional gaps/constraints are to be reported for this period.



WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH)

Needs: The Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) cluster, led by DOH and co-led by UNICEF, focuses on improving water, sanitation and hygiene access for some 170,000 affected people, of which about 25,000 are those remaining in ECs and transit sites. In addition, WASH-related interventions, meant to prevent disease outbreaks, are being scaled up to include affected municipalities.

Response: Previously reported WASH interventions in ECs, transitional sites and affected municipalities are on-going, with the focus on the construction of semi-permanent WASH facilities in transitional sites. A total of 246 new toilets have been constructed to date, with an additional 172 planned over the next two weeks. A one-day hygiene promotion training has been completed for 43 nurses and five sanitary inspectors in Iligan. A two-day hygiene promotion course for 50 people is currently ongoing in CDO. A WASH assessment of affected villages in Iligan is currently ongoing.

Gaps & Constraints: In addition to the gaps reported previously, the need for a further scale-up of hygiene promotion and clean-up of household septic tanks continues. Poor environmental conditions, hygiene

behaviour and a lack of hygiene materials greatly increase the risk of cholera outbreaks. Debris-clearing and clean-up must be prioritised.



FOOD SECURITY

Needs: The Food Security cluster, led by DSWD and co-led by WFP, aims to provide immediate food assistance to more than 250,000 people in CDO, Iligan and rural and suburban areas, many of which remain underserved. The cluster's interventions focus on two groups: (i) the displaced remaining in ECs and transitional sites as well as (ii) affected people outside of camps and host communities themselves. In addition to supporting debris-clearing and construction of shelter through food-for-work schemes, the cluster also runs an emergency school feeding programme (ESFP) targeting 40,000 children and promoting return of children to schools. Supplementary feeding programme (SFP) targeting malnourished children will also be implemented in partnership with the Nutrition cluster.

Response: The cluster continued to carry out its on-going interventions. To date, the cluster reached all the 250,000 targeted beneficiaries, including through general food distributions, food-for-work activities and ESFP and SFP.

Gaps & Constraints: No additional gaps/constraints to be reported.



PROTECTION, INCLUDING CHILD PROTECTION AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

Needs: The Protection cluster, led by DSWD and co-led by UNHCR supports 80,000 extremely vulnerable individuals. During the first phase, protection kits are delivered to families to ensure protection and safety. The second phase focuses on community-based activities to help decongest ECs, stabilise communities and find durable solutions, with particular attention to the needs of the affected in remote communities, those additionally impacted by the on-going conflicts, and people with specific needs. The cluster also provides advice on humanitarian assistance and relocation.

The Child Protection sub-cluster, co-led by UNICEF, targets another 200,000 people through child protection activities. The aim is to enhance the capacity of DSWD, local government units (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-led 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: In addition to on-going activities, UNHCR, the Government's Provincial Health Office and partners distributed 29 wheelchairs, four walkers, 15 canes and 11 sets of crutches to affected people with special needs in CDO. Some 148 people received medication.

Psycho-social activities by the Child Protection Working Group (CPWG) members have reached an additional 4,708 children in ECs. This brings the total number of children served by the CPWG from the onset of this emergency to more than 15,000. UNICEF has also advocated for the resumption of day care sessions in CDO and the reinstatement of day care workers. One more separated child has been provided with a kinship arrangement by the DSWD in Iligan.

UNFPA and partners continued distributing dignity kits and other goods to affected women. The GBV sub-cluster has conducted more information sessions on health, while the Family Planning Organization of the Philippines focused on reactivating local mechanisms that are critical to the implementation of referral pathways in emergencies in 25 affected municipalities in CDO.

Gaps & Constraints: In addition to gaps reported to date, community-based child protection network (CBCPN) and Family Tracing and Reunification (FTR) system remains inadequate in both ECs and transitional sites. Disaggregate data is still not available. Documentation of cases of children missing at night, especially young girls engaged in risky sexual behaviour, is also needed.



EDUCATION

Needs: The Education cluster, led by DepED and co-led by UNICEF and Save the Children (SC), plans to assist some 105,000 affected school-aged children by providing quality early childhood care and development (ECCD) and basic education, adequate learning spaces and learning kits. Stronger advocacy on child rights and protective mechanisms in learning institutions shall also be pursued alongside enhancement of teachers' capacity to provide psycho-social support (PSS). The conduct of emergency school activities in and outside ECs, in partnership with local NGOs, will also be supported.

Response: Cluster members continued to distribute back-to-school kits and hygiene kits, set up school tents and assess WASH-related needs in affected schools. A system for coordination and monitoring school-based PSS activities and a school-community disaster risk reduction (DRR) programme, aimed at enhancing DRR education and preparedness as well as setting up school-based DRR and management system, are also being developed.

Gaps & Constraints: Previously reported gaps/constraints remain valid. Additional technical support and resources are needed to enable repairs and rebuilding of school buildings. Policy guidelines on set up of classrooms and temporary learning spaces have not yet been developed.



HEALTH, INCLUDING REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

Needs: The Health cluster, led by DOH and co-led by WHO, aims to assist some 300,000 affected people, including 10,000 PLW, 20,000 young people and 5,000 family planning users through the provision of life-saving care to the injured and psycho-social support to the affected, monitoring and prevention work, and, should it become necessary, work to contain disease outbreaks and address the reproductive health needs of the displaced.

Response: In addition to on-going, recurrent activities reported to date, including disease surveillance, cluster members provided health information sessions to nearly 2,500 PLW and another 1,000 individuals aged 10-24 years, in Iligan and CDO. Additional dignity kits for PLW, delivery kits for expecting mothers, blankets, women underwear and 10,000 hygiene kits have been provided in CDO. 'Teen kits' were distributed to 990 youth. To date, psycho-social teams have served 5,553 affected individuals in CDO and another 1,410 in Iligan, with 27 individuals in CDO and 25 in Iligan having been referred for a more specialised psychiatric treatment.

Gaps & Constraints: No additional gaps/constraints are reported at this time.



NUTRITION

Needs: The Nutrition cluster, led by DOH and co-led by UNICEF, 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: Additional 1,337 children aged 6-59 months have been screened for acute malnutrition, including children in ECs and seven of the most affected communities. Out of the total of 4,462 children screened to date, 48 cases of SAM and 159 cases of MAM were reported (global acute malnutrition rate of 5 per cent). The serious levels of malnutrition earlier recorded in municipalities such as Mandulog, with global acute malnutrition rate of 12.3 per cent, are currently being investigated. The four operational mobile clinics report that 22 children with SAM are now undergoing life-saving treatment.

Gaps & Constraints: Given continuous, frequent violations of the international code for marketing of breast milk substitutes and the national milk code (Executive Order 51), there is a need to raise awareness among camp managers and municipality officials on their obligation to protect the breastfeeding rights of women and children.



EARLY RECOVERY

Needs: The Early Recovery cluster, led by OCD and NEDA and co-led UNDP, continues to focus on debris-clearing and clean-up in 86 affected municipalities. This is being achieved through cash- and food-for-work programmes meant to provide some 86,000 families with opportunities to rebuild their livelihoods and to ensure their access to food.

Response: The cluster continued to carry out its on-going interventions, in particular debris-clearing and clean-up through cash-for-work schemes. The Iligan City LGU has confirmed that about 50 per cent of the logs and debris in coastline areas have been retrieved and cleared.

Gaps & Constraints: In addition to the continuing need for heavy equipment, scale-up of debris-clearing and clean-up in affected communities outside city centers of Iligan and Cagayan de Oro is urgently required.



LIVELIHOODS

Needs: The Livelihoods cluster, led by DSWD and co-led 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.

Recognizing the difficulty of the displaced to return to traditional sources of livelihood (such as agriculture) due to the destruction of farmlands and infrastructure, the cluster aims also to assist them with shifting to other means of livelihoods.

Response: Previously reported interventions continued to be carried out by cluster members. Prioritisation of cash-for-work schemes within municipalities of Iligan is being discussed with the City Government.

Gaps & Constraints: No additional gaps/constraints to be reported at this time.

IV. Coordination

As part of the action plan for Shelter Solutions, a preliminary meeting was held this week under the leadership of the Shelter and Protection clusters to discuss outreach to beneficiaries. In collaboration with DSWD and Philippines Information Agency, and under the overall guidance of OCD, preliminary plans are being developed for an information campaign on entitlements and housing assistance available to all the affected. Initial discussions resulted in an agreement on the need to identify (or hire) camp information managers/focal points who would be responsible for ensuring adequate and sufficient information is provided to the displaced in ECs and transitional sites. The group is considering employing a cash-for-work mechanism to enable this operation. It is yet to be determined how such information will be disseminated to affected populations outside camps.

As part of a series of information products, the Shelter, CCCM, WASH and Protection clusters produced jointly an illustrated Transitory Site Guidelines to be disseminated to practitioners and the affected population. The guidelines include information on the standard area of living space, fire safety, sanitation and site safety and lighting in common service areas.

The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) jointly carried out a preliminary hazard assessment of the flood-affected areas in Cagayan de Oro and Iligan cities from 12 to 25 January. The assessment aims to identify measures to improve disaster risk reduction and management in the affected LGUs in order to prevent or mitigate adverse impact of potential natural hazards. The assessment involved interviews with LGUs, Office of Civil Defense and the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical services as well as data analysis, site visits and aerial surveys.

The revised Flash Appeal for Tropical Storm Washi will be launched in Manila on 3 February by the UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator (RC/HC), Ms. Jacqui Badcock and the Government. The event will take place at the ILO Auditorium at 11.00 am. The Revised Flash Appeal document presents the adjusted response plan developed by the Government and the humanitarian community to address the needs of people affected by the storm.

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