

*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 26 to 30 October 2009 and addresses Typhoon Parma, Tropical Storm Ketsana as well as preparations for Typhoon Mirinae ("Santi"). The next report will be issued on or around 2 November.*

### **I. HIGHLIGHTS/KEY PRIORITIES**

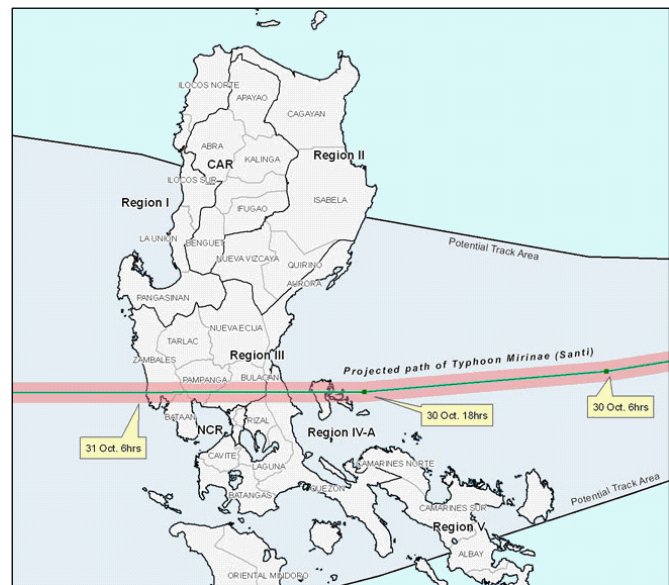
- Typhoon Mirinae, locally known as "Santi", has maintained its strength and continues to move west towards Central Luzon at 24 kph. The public has been warned that the typhoon may make landfall in Central Luzon as early as Saturday morning, 31 October.
- The heavy rainfall expected to accompany Typhoon Mirinae could complicate the ongoing relief operations in Central Luzon and further exacerbate the humanitarian situation of the flood-affected population.
- Water borne disease continue to be the primary concern with 2,894 cases of Leptospirosis reported in Region I, II, III, IVA and CAR. There have been 210 deaths from Leptospirosis so far.
- The Philippines Flash Appeal has received US\$ 25 million, or 34.4% of the total \$74 million requested; the appeal will be revised in the coming week.

### **II. Situation Overview**

As of 17:00 local time on 29 October, the national meteorological centre (PAGASA) reports that Typhoon Mirinae (local name Santi) is 800km east of Aurora province, and is continuing to move towards Luzon. It is expected to make landfall in Region III on Saturday, 31 October, in the morning. Residents of low-lying areas in 16 provinces in Luzon have been instructed to make preparations for possible flooding and landslides. The latest forecasts indicate that Mirinae will maintain Category II strength until after it leaves the Philippines, but that it will weaken to a tropical storm before again making landfall in central Vietnam on the afternoon of 2 November.

UNDSS Manila is taking precautions and is advising all UN staff to prepare for the arrival of the storm.

GeoVantage, sponsored by Google, is currently undertaking aerial scanning of the flood affected areas in coordination with OCHA and the clusters. Three planes have started scanning prioritized areas in northern Luzon and, once flight permits are issued, they will begin scanning areas around Laguna Lake initially focusing on Muntinlupa City and nearby areas. The aerial imagery will be processed and made available to the humanitarian community for the purpose of enabling responders to better plan their projects. It is understood that that the imagery will eventually be made available to the public via Google Earth.



### **III. Humanitarian Needs and Response**

#### **Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene**

##### Needs

Access to safe water, sanitation facilities and hygiene items in the relocation camps and in residential areas affected by the floods is the key humanitarian concern. Rehabilitation and improvement of drainage, solid waste collection and vector control are also top priorities.

### Response

To better coordinate WASH activities, sub-clusters are being established in Rizal and Laguna. On Tuesday 27 October, the first sub-cluster meeting was held jointly with the Health Cluster in Calamba City Hall and chaired by Dr. Plastina, the municipality's Chief Health Officer. Members from Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage Systems, (MWSS), Department of Health (DoH), local government, UN and INGOs were in attendance. The meeting will be held weekly in different locations within the province. The Water Cluster Coordinator will arrange a similar meeting in Rizal.

Medicines San Frontiers – Switzerland (MSF-CH) recently provided data for acute watery diarrhea (AWD) and cholera in Laguna province. The results included 353 suspected cases of cholera; 20 of these underwent rapid testing with 10 proving positive. The transmission is suspected to occur through physical contact and not drinking water. The positive test results were in San Pedro with none reported in Muntinlupa or Binangalan municipalities. The weekly Water Cluster meeting at MWSS is cancelled on 2 November due to a public holiday.

### Gaps and Challenges

The major concern of organizations operating in flood-affected areas is to reduce the health risks associated with water-borne diseases, i.e. diarrhea, AWD and cholera. Identifying appropriate means for safe excreta disposal in flooded/high water tables is proving challenging for all the Water/WASH actors. With the emergency stage of operations changing to longer term solutions, emergency de-sludging services in evacuation/relocation camps, provided by Manila Water, will soon stop; however, the municipalities have limited capacity to take over responsibilities.

## **Health**

### Needs

Leptospirosis cases from Region I, II, III, IVA and CAR since the disaster now totals 2894 cases, with 210 cumulative mortalities. An increase in incidence of Leptospirosis was noted in 3 municipalities in La Union province in Region I.

### Response

On 28 and 29 October, the GOARN team visited La Union province. Mobile health care services and psychosocial program coverage has increased, thanks to the expansion of service by MSF, Australian Aid International, MERLIN, Save the Children, CFSI, Plan International, PNRC, Handicap International, CRWRC, MERCY Malaysia, and HUMA (Japan). The main causes of morbidity are: Upper respiratory tract infections, diarrhea, and pneumonia. Weekly Tri-cluster meetings are held with the WASH and Nutrition Clusters.

### Gaps and Challenges

Pocket areas in the National Capital Region (NCR) still have limited access to medical care service. No 24/7 health services are available in evacuation centers. High burden of leptospirosis in referral hospitals in NCR might limit hospital bed availability for other less critical cases. Disease surveillance system and reporting system must be urgently strengthened.

## **Camp Coordination**

### Needs

According to data from the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD – DROMIC), there are currently 391 evacuation centres (ECs) in Region IV-A and NCR hosting a population of over 133,000 people. Assessments of these ECs are ongoing and scheduled for completion in the coming week. NFIs, in particular hygiene kits have been distributed in limited quantities to the worst affected areas including flooded communities and ECs. There is still a significant shortfall in terms of servicing the targeted 1.7 million people living in flooded areas and ECs requiring NFI assistance

### Response

The Cluster is increasing its assessment capacity to cover more municipalities and *barangays* over shorter periods of time in order to better evaluate the status of all collective centres. Formal camp settings are on the rise, and close monitoring and advocacy is extremely important at this stage. The Cluster is encouraging all partners to report back on hot spots and areas of concern given the expansive nature of this response. Efforts are being made to harmonize data on collective centres from all cluster partners.

### Gaps and Challenges

Accessing adequate data is a particular concern as the situation remains highly fluid with evacuation centres closing or relocating rapidly. Access to flooded areas of Region IV-A is still a constraint. More EC assessments teams are still required. There is a continuing, significant need for NFI distributions to affected populations.

### **Food**

#### Needs

WFP is provisionally estimating that 1.5 million people are in urgent need of life-saving assistance in November. This figure includes: 250,000 of the poorest displaced (mainly in evacuation centres), 500,000 farmers (including their family members) and an additional 750,000 of the poorest people living in flooded areas, whose livelihoods and food and nutrition security has been devastated. The impact of the floods will be further validated by a WFP emergency food security assessment which will be conducted with DSWD and other partner agencies to assess all six regions in early November of 2009. This assessment will assist in improved targeting of food assistance.

#### Response

WFP's revised requirements for food relief and early recovery activities will be integrated into the revised UN Flash Appeal. In addition to initial 740 tons of rice allocated at the end of September, food distribution is currently underway to reach 960,000 people with 4,800 tons of locally-purchased rice. Continuous food deliveries at regional and municipal level are being organized for further distribution led by local government authorities.

WFP, in close coordination with DSWS, is targeting selected areas in Region IV-A to provide most vulnerable groups with a full food basket. The full food basket includes rice, high-energy biscuits, canned fish, and vegetable oil. A Food Cluster Coordination Meeting was held on Tuesday, 27 October, including NGOs, relevant government authorities and UN agencies. The participants shared field level updates, information on the revised Flash Appeal, and upcoming assessments. The Community and Family Services International (CFSI), WFP's cooperating partner, reported food distribution led by the local government in Region III will be completed this week. The food distribution is expected to cover about 49,000 people in 6 provinces of the Region.

The procurement of additional food commodities (rice, biscuits, beans/canned fish, and vegetable oil) is currently underway to boost WFP in-country stocks. To ensure timely delivery, local purchase is being prioritized wherever possible, while WFP also seeks to expedite food delivery from near-by countries. An additional 500 MT of high-energy biscuits are being delivered from Indonesia.

### Gaps and Challenges

As of 28 October, \$12.3 million was confirmed out of the total \$19.7 million required for food assistance in the EMOP (the current Flash Appeal figure). Significant increase in the number of beneficiaries and related food requirements implies that additional donor support is urgently needed to ensure uninterrupted assistance through March 2010.

### **Education**

#### Needs

The Education Cluster agreed to target 992,800 children (40 percent of disaster-affected population, as used in the revised flash appeal). Damages to educational infrastructure and resources exceed Php 1.2 billion (US\$ 25.2 million). The combined effect of Typhoons Ketsana and Parma caused damages to more than 2700 schools. There are currently 97 schools being used as evacuation centers housing a total number of 10,787 families. Landslides in Ilocos Sur causes six communities to be isolated preventing some 5000 pupils from reaching their schools (Department of Education).

#### Response

The Cluster has already started to expand activities from Metro Manila and South Luzon to Northern Luzon. The Department of Education replaced a total of 72,094 new textbooks for 17 elementary schools and 10 secondary schools in the division of Marikina, National Capital Region, which include eight high school titles of textbooks and 24 elementary titles. UNICEF provided a total of 8,271 school packs, and 2 sets each of library and recreation sets to Nangka Elementary School in Marikina and Pinagbuhatan Elementary School in Pasig benefiting 10,071 school-aged children. UNICEF also provided a total of 27 early childhood development packs to selected Pasig City evacuation centers and schools benefiting 1,755 preschool

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children. A joint validation team deployed by the Department of Education will visit typhoon stricken areas in cooperation with the World Bank. The mission takes place from 27-30 October.

### Gaps and Challenges

More than 2,700 schools require rehabilitation or reconstruction. Construction standards might have to be reviewed to include safeguards for disaster risk reduction. Close cooperation between the WASH and Education cluster is necessary to meet water, sanitation and hand washing infrastructure needs in schools. There is also an urgent need for the replacement of textbooks, teaching resources and other school equipment. Cleaning and clearing of elementary and secondary schools used as ECs is needed to prevent the spread of disease. Waste management is an issue to be discussed in the medium-term. Following the establishment of a proper baseline, the cluster is in the process of ensuring that a proper monitoring format is being implemented in order to prevent gaps and/or duplication in the implementation of activities by the different cluster partners. The incorporation of other partners in the field of education is necessary to ensure that the main implementers are being included in the monitoring framework.

## **Protection**

### Needs

There is an urgent need to register missing, unaccompanied and separated children, especially in the northern part of the country. Evacuees are experiencing increased anger and depression due to the possible closure of evacuation centers. Other issues of concern include safety of children, provision of water and sanitation services and the disaster's impact on street and working children in Metro Manila.

### Response

The Council for the Welfare of Children (CWC) was designated by the Government to trace, register and unify separated, unaccompanied and missing children as well as manage data and cases. Over 13,000 children have been reached by over 50 NGOs and CBOs that are undertaking child protection and psychosocial activities in 110 areas. Over 7,000 of these children participate in regular play activities conducted by some 700 volunteers. Faith-based organizations are also initiating child protection activities.

### Gaps and Challenges

Major constraints include difficulty of access and lack of partners in the Northern and Central Luzon areas, as well as lack of supplies and resources and limited technical capacities of local organizations. There is also a need to develop alternative care arrangements for separated/unaccompanied children.

## **Agriculture**

### Needs

Department of Agriculture (DA) statistics show losses in the agriculture and fisheries sector of more than \$560 million. Rice crop losses total more than one million metric tons with some 155,864 hectares of rice crop land have been destroyed. DA and FAO preliminary needs assessment indicated immediate needs for emergency supplies of rice and vegetable seeds, as well as fertilizer and resources to repair of damaged irrigation systems. Immediate support is required to prevent significant negative impact on the next harvest season, as well as the food and livelihood security of the affected farmer households. Affected fishermen are in urgent need of fingerlings to reestablish their means of livelihoods.

### Response

On 26 October the DA FAO team that conducted last week's preliminary assessment presented its findings to the Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) Agriculture and Fisheries Sector, and strategized for the PDNA field visits that took place from 27 to 29 October 2009 to four regions (I, II, IV and CAR). Various organizations, including the DA and other government departments (WB, FAO, ADB, and JICA) are participating to the PDNA exercise for the Agriculture and Fisheries Sector.

FAO Emergency and Rehabilitation Team continues its effort to boost the emergency response as well as focus on strengthening the cluster coordination in close collaboration with the DA and other partners. The agriculture cluster lead revised the Flash Appeal for the Philippines and included data collected during preliminary assessment conducted in Region I, II and III. The focus of the flash appeal has shifted to region I, II and III due to the devastating damages and losses to the Agriculture sector by Typhoon Parma.

An assessment team of the French INGO Premiere Urgence arrived on 23 October 2009 in Manila to prepare for a two week field assessment focusing on agriculture and fisheries. Premiere Urgence has been in contact

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with FAO and the DA in Manila, as well as with DA Offices in the field, to ensure complementary and prioritization in the selection of the flood affected areas for their field visit and for possible future interventions

#### Gaps and Challenges

Funding requirements for immediate relief assistance for the affected farmers remain a key gap.

### **Logistics**

#### Needs

Following an updated DSWD rapid needs assessment in Southern Luzon, an estimated 38,000 people have been targeted for further assistance. As a result, the NDCC is refocusing operations on Laguna and Rizal for the coming days. Approximately 300 MT of goods will require transport to these areas.

#### Response

Temporary staging areas to deliver relief supplies to Laguna and Rizal are being established at Calamba City and at Camp Capinpin, which are both military facilities. Target areas for helicopter deliveries in the region are the mountainous areas around Tanay as well as Cardona and Binangonan Islands. One of the helicopters began rotations to these locations on 27 October. The Logistics Cluster has begun surface transport to Camp Capinpin to pre-position cargo for delivery. The other helicopter is still being tasked for rotations in northern Luzon, focusing on Benguet, Ilocos Norte and Ilocos Sur. Recent missions have included assessments for road and bridge conditions as well as distributions to cut off barangays. As of 27 October, 93 rotations have been carried out, with helicopter deliveries reaching 79 MT of food and 2.9 MT of NFI. The "Relief Caravan" of around 150 trucks and military vehicles carrying goods from government agencies, private donors and international organizations to Southern Luzon left on the morning of October 29. A launch ceremony was attended by the President. The Logistics Cluster sent five trucks carrying DSWD goods.

#### Gaps and Challenges

The effects of Typhoon Mirinae will likely impact on operations, in particular helicopter deliveries.

### **Emergency Telecoms**

#### Response

Telecoms Sans Frontieres (TSF) has departed the Philippines and is available to respond from Bangkok at short notice if required. Security VHF telecomms repeater installation at RCBC has been completed and testing of coverage in Metro Manila and Region IV-A is commencing. The Flash appeal budget/project has been revised downwards considering no humanitarian sub-offices have been identified, and the new funding requirement is \$319,000. Negotiations with authorities together with UNDSS to secure repeater sites in Metro Manila and frequency licensing are ongoing. The cluster continues to provide technical support to the humanitarian community in Metro Manila.

#### Gaps and Challenges

UN humanitarian sub-office hubs in the affected areas are not yet confirmed. Northern Metro Manila VHF security communications repeater coverage is limited. Wide-area security communications repeater coverage is also limited (Region IV-A).

### **Nutrition**

The Nutrition Cluster has no new information to report for this reporting period.

### **Early Recovery**

The Early Recovery Cluster has no new information to report for this reporting period.

## **IV. Coordination**

Clusters are closely coordinating with the Government on preparedness activities for Typhoon Mirinae ("Santi"). An UNDAC team is currently on stand-by and can be deployed to the Philippines as required.

## **V. Funding**

The revision of the Philippines 2009 Flash Appeal is underway with all clusters preparing to submit revised projects this week.

*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](mailto:fts@reliefweb.int).*

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