

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 03 to 05 November 2009 and addresses Typhoon Parma/Pepeng, Tropical Storm Ketsana/Ondoy as well as Typhoon Mirinae/Santi. The next report will be issued on or around 10 November.

I. HIGHLIGHTS/KEY PRIORITIES

- The extent of the affects of Typhoon Mirinae/Santi, which traversed central Luzon on 31 October, is becoming clearer as more municipalities report damages and casualties.
- The revision of the 2009 Philippines Flash Appeal is proceeding with all clusters having submitted revision strategies and priorities based on the current humanitarian situation in Luzon.
- A consolidated Joint Rapid Needs Assessment of Santa Cruz, Laguna, Region IV-A detailing the impact of Typhoon Mirinae/Santi has been published.
- Despite the relatively low volume of rainfall, the most recent typhoon has significantly worsened the humanitarian situation in Region IV-A, especially for those people living in the Laguna region.

II. Situation Overview

The gravity of the affects of Typhoon Mirinae/Santi, which traversed central Luzon on 31 October, are becoming clearer as more municipalities report damages and casualties. The NDCC is now reporting that 483,490 individuals have been affected by the storm in 121 municipalities. So far, there have been 29 reported deaths, 15 injuries, and six people are reported missing. Infrastructure damages are estimated to be PhP 494,698,172 (more than US\$10M), including damages to 34,040 houses and 101 school buildings.

The revision of the 2009 Philippines Flash Appeal is proceeding with all clusters having submitted revision strategies and priorities based on the current humanitarian situation in Luzon. All projects for the revised Flash Appeal have been submitted to the OPS system and will be forwarded to the UN Resident Coordinator/Humanitarian Coordinator for approval.

A consolidated Joint Rapid Needs Assessment of Santa Cruz, Laguna, Region IV-A detailing the impact of Typhoon Mirinae/Santi was published on 3 November. Six teams with members representing government agencies, UN agencies, IASC partners and I/NGOs were deployed for the assessment on 01 November.

Based on the statistics received from Santa Cruz Mayor's office there are a total of 82,765 people (17,273 families) affected in 21 barangays. Many are currently living in host communities or with close friends or relatives. There are a total of 25 evacuation centers accommodating 10,028 persons (2,174 families). Pre-emptive evacuations took place last Saturday 31 October at 4:00AM. IDPs previously located in Pagsawitan Elementary School due to flooding were transported by the army to another evacuation centre. Five people are still missing from Pagsawitan Barangay.

The affected populations in flooded areas are still suffering from Typhoon Ondoy and Typhoon Santi has increased the level of vulnerability in terms of damaged houses and lack of humanitarian access. The concern for livelihoods is also a priority as fishery activities are the main economic activity for local income in many of the recent hit areas.

The majority of the population in flooded areas (approximately 80%) has moved to evacuation centers or host communities, while some affected people are renting houses in the safe locations at a cost of approximately 2,000-3,000 pesos per month, potentially causing further economic problems for the near future.

The assessment also detailed the increased risk of different diseases for people living in flooded areas without proper sanitation system or potable water (no latrines, potable water, access to primary health care, lack of income etc).

Food and non-foods items are urgently needed for people in flooded areas but a strategic distribution should be defined which contribute to the move of populations from the inaccessible flooded areas.

III. Humanitarian Needs and Response

Agriculture

Needs: Estimated damages in the agriculture sector caused by Typhoon Miranae totals approximately 2,412 hectares of crop land in 5 provinces. In Region IV the following areas reported damages: Cavite (1,997 hectares), Laguna (195 hectares), Rizal (113 hectares), Quezon (75 hectares) and Batangas (32 hectares). The estimated production losses amount to US\$ 3,368,143. High Value Commercial Crops (HVCC) consisting of fruits, vegetables and coffee were primarily damaged with 2,192 HA of farm land, in 19 municipalities. The total approximate production losses are US\$ 3,368,143. In addition, in 3 provinces 220 HA of rice were damaged of which 90 HA completely and 130 HA with a chance to recovery. The approximate production loss of rice accounts for US\$ 4,173,200 (Source: DA, Central Action Center 1 November 2009). The estimated commodity losses of various crops, including the livestock and fisheries sectors due to Tropical Storm Ketsana and Typhoon Pepeng remain at US\$ 501,863,505, with an additional US\$ 581,497,780 in damages to irrigation and agriculture infrastructure, bringing the total losses to US\$ 560,013,285. A joint DA FAO preliminary needs assessment indicates immediate needs for emergency supplies to prevent negative impact on the next harvest season and on food and livelihood security of the affected population.

Response: Agriculture Sector Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) field visits took place from 27 to 29 October 2009 to 4 regions (I, III, IV and CAR). Various organizations, including the DA and other government departments, WB, FAO, ADB, and JICA participated to the exercise. Data collection of damages and losses are being finalized. The PDNA Agriculture Sector is now in the process of identifying the needs. The report is expected to be finalized by mid November 2009. The FAO Emergency and Rehabilitation Team in close collaboration with the FAO Representative, the Department of Agriculture and I/NGOs, continues its effort to boost the emergency response and its focus on strengthening cluster coordination. FAO as agriculture cluster co-lead revised the Flash Appeal for the Philippines and included data collected during preliminary assessment conducted in Region I, II, III and CAR. The focus of the flash appeal has shifted to Regions I, II, III and CAR due to the devastating damages and losses to the Agriculture sector by Typhoon Pepeng. French NGO Premiere Urgence (PU) arrived in Manila on 23 October 2009. PU is currently conducting an agriculture and fisheries needs assessment focusing on most severely areas affected by Ketsana/Ondoy, but which have not yet been assessed by the FAO – DA and PDNA assessment teams.

Gaps and Challenges: The funding requirements of immediate relief assistance for the affected farmers remain under funded.

Camp Coordination

Needs: According to DSWD data for October 30, there are currently 306 evacuation centres (ECs) in Region IV-A and NCR hosting a population of over 87,000 people from Typhoons Ketsana/Ondoy and Parma/Pepeng. In addition there is a reported increase by DSWD from November 4 of up to 18,000 people who moved to 95 evacuation centres as a result of Typhoon Miranae/Santi. Many of these IDPs have begun to return and assessments of these evacuation centres are ongoing particularly in Region IV-A which was hardest hit by the latest typhoon. Assessments are ongoing of all the evacuation sites however with limited human resources, not all evacuation centres have been assessed. Efforts are being made to gather data from informal evacuation centres in these assessments.

A limited number of NFIs, particularly hygiene kits, have been distributed to the worst affected areas including flooded communities and ECs. There is still a significant shortfall in terms of servicing the targeted 1.7M people living in flooded areas and evacuation centres 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 grasp the status of all collective centres. The CCCM/NFI Displacement Tracking Matrix has compiled multi-sector data on 159 ECs principally through IOM camp management liaison teams. The Cluster is encouraging all partners to report back on hot spots and areas of concern given the expansive nature of this response. Meetings with DSWD have been held to find ways of harmonizing data and to clarify coordination mechanisms. IOM is planning the physical rehabilitation of high risk ECs in NCR and Region IV-A. NFI Tracking is on-going.

Gaps and Challenges: Accessing adequate data is a particular concern as the situation remains highly fluid

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with ECs closing or relocating rapidly. More evacuation centre assessment teams are still required and there is a continuing significant requirement for NFI distributions to affected populations.

Early Recovery

Response: The Cluster is meeting regularly and further support is provided for coordination and capacity-building within the cluster and assessment activities including: Strengthening of cluster capacity with a resident cluster coordinator as well as additional financial assistance for administration and information management. The integration and streamlining the ERRNA with the Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) and strengthening capacity with a UNDP/PDNA Advisor are also underway. Assessments are being conducted in selected local government units in NCR and Rizal province in support of project formulation. Development of two project proposals (\$ 5.5 million) for early recovery are ongoing for cleaning up formerly inundated areas and restoration of critical infrastructures including government offices, schools and health centers. The cluster is also focusing efforts on the resumption of critical local government statutory activities and direct support to livelihoods of victims of the typhoons.

Education

Response: The Education Cluster revised the target population to 490,560 school-aged children due to the change in the number of affected population as a whole. Significant progress has been made to gear up the cluster's activities. The cluster is preparing a capacity/needs assessment, and a plan of action. Both the standardization of the RA tools as well as the supply kits is underway. The cluster partners have agreed to put sufficient attention to children who are the most marginalized. They are also looking into how to complement the government's efforts on disaster risk reduction in education.

Gaps and Challenges: There is a need to rehabilitate or reconstruct a great number of elementary and high schools. Construction standards might have to be reviewed, especially in view of disaster risk reduction elements to be included. Furthermore close cooperation between the WASH and Education cluster is necessary to cater for the necessary water, sanitation and hand washing infrastructure needs in schools.

Apart from the physical infrastructure, there is still an urgent need for the replacement of textbooks, teacher's instructional manuals and teaching aids, other school equipment as well as school furniture.

Cleaning and clearing of elementary and high schools used as evacuation centers is needed to prevent the spread of diseases. 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 overlap in implementation of activities by the different cluster partners. Including other partners in the field of education is necessary to ensure that the main implementers are being included in the monitoring framework.

Emergency Shelter

Needs: DSWD / NDCC reports as of 5th November, typhoons "Ondoy" and "Pepeng" damaged 212,918 houses, of which 178,856 are partially damaged and 34,062 are totally damaged. Updated report from DSWD for typhoon 'Santi' shows 25,310 damaged (2,298 total and 23,012 partial) houses in 4 regions. The reported number of damaged houses is still increasing every day. Analysis shows that approximately 40 municipalities in severely affected areas of Laguna (IV-A) and Pangasinan (III) have not reported their house damages to DSWD / NDCC yet. Based on NEW more detailed extrapolation of data by the shelter cluster, it is expected that the total number of damaged houses will be higher than the 250,000 expected before. In the still flooded (A1) area's the total number of damaged houses is expected to reach appx.190,000, in the not flooded (A2) area's approximately 135,000 which totals 325,000. In A1 areas this is 24%, in A2 2% of the total number houses (total population / 5). On average 16% of the damaged houses is totally damaged.

Response: The Shelter Cluster has identified priority geographic areas of Regions I, III, IV-A and NCR. The target vulnerable families are those with damaged houses in low-risk and high-risk areas. Shelter assistance will be provided based on the beneficiary's vulnerability. The cluster partners are working in close cooperation with the communities, DSWD and the local government units.

To date, 14 organizations have planned shelter interventions in the form of repairs, emergency shelter, transitional shelter and relocation support for over 67,500 households. The majority of these (approximately 45,000) are pending the flash appeal funding process.

The strategy advisory group is also studying alternative interventions like promotion of host family sheltering.

At this moment 17,586 families have receive NFI support. Next week Swiss Development Cooperation will handover the relocation site with 150 emergency shelters erected plus another 50 to be done for 200 families (San Pedro). IOM and Habitat for Humanity started the distribution of approximately 200 shelter kits (or vouchers).

Based on information from the National Housing Authority (NHA) on existing relocation sites, the government has started relocating people to Towerville in San Jose Del Monte, Bulacan, in Sta. Rosa and Binan, Laguna (those displaced coming from Marikina and Pasig).

Shelter NFI distributions like household kits are reported through the NFI cluster.

Gaps and Challenges: The shelter cluster predicts that the total number of Ondoy and Pepeng damaged houses will rise to at least 325,000 houses. The planned 67,000 units will cover only about 41% of that need (assuming 50% of the households need assistance) and is uncertain from a funding perspective. The numbers of IDP's outside EC's is unclear at the moment. 3 agencies reported that suitable 'relocation sites' in Laguna area are hardly available.

Food

Needs: WFP revised its estimates of emergency and early recovery needs taking into account assessment of Typhoon Parma. These additional needs will be reflected in the revised UN Flash Appeal which will be launched next week.

An inter-agency assessment team deployed on 1 November following Typhoon Mirinae indicated that there was no major additional damage, but it has exacerbated the humanitarian situation of the vulnerable population already affected by Tropical Storm Ketsana. Additional food needs identified during the assessment will be addressed in coordination with DSWD and the local government authorities.

Response: The Food Cluster Coordination Meeting was held on Tuesday, 3 November with NGOs partners. The Salvation Army is currently distributing food, including rice, sardine, and cooking oil, to reach 28,000 individuals in Region III and IV/A. The distribution is done in coordination with DSWD/MSWD and also includes non-food items such as kitchen kits.

CFSI reported that WFP food distribution in Region III, led by the local government authorities, was completed as of 30 October.

WFP food distributions currently reaching approximately 1 million people are underway with locally-purchased rice, high-energy biscuits, vegetable oil, and canned fish. Additional local purchase of 5,100 tons of rice is being finalized to expedite food deliveries in coming months to the beneficiaries.

A WFP Emergency Food Security Assessment is planned in six regions severely affected by successive storms during the past 5 weeks. The preparation is underway together with the government, UN (FAO and UNICEF) and various NGO partners. A total of 4 teams will be deployed to gather data in 50 locations of six regions to evaluate the impact of typhoons and floods on household level food security and livelihoods of affected population.

Gaps and Challenges: Funding shortfalls are still significant and continued donor support is needed as the current operation is in the process of being revised to include emergency and recovery needs of the poorest farmers and their families, who face significant crop loss following Typhoon Parma, and who are expected to require assistance until at least March, and possibly through June 2010.

Health

Needs: Leptospirosis cases from Region NCR, I, II, III, IVA and CAR since the disaster now totals 2 927 cases, with 220 cumulative mortalities. NEC reports the top morbidities in evacuation centers as: acute respiratory illness, skin infections/wounds, diarrhea, febrile illness, influenza-like illness, severe acute respiratory illness, and pneumonia

Response: Continued mobile health care services and psychosocial program coverage is being provided in affected areas through the efforts of MSF, Australian Aid International, MERLIN, Save the Children, CFSI, Plan International, PNR, Handicap International, CRWRC, MERCY Malaysia, and HUMA (Japan).

An assessment mission has been conducted by WHO in affected evacuation centers, municipalities and cities in Laguna Province.

The GOARN team is continuing visits to affected areas, including hospitals in affected municipalities.

239 391 individuals have been given prophylaxis from NCR and Region IV-A. Weekly Tri-cluster meetings are held with the WASH and Nutrition Clusters.

Gaps and Challenges: Pocket areas in NCR still have limited access to medical care service. No 24/7 health services are available in evacuation centers. Access of evacuees to secondary and tertiary health care is limited. Disease surveillance system and reporting system must be urgently strengthened

Logistics

The mission of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) is to mobilize and coordinate effective and principled humanitarian action in partnership with national and international actors.

Needs: Accessibility in northern Luzon remains a serious issue due to damaged bridges and landslides. The DSWD has provided a list of underserved locations in these areas.

Response: Representatives of the Logistics Cluster and UNHAS have undertaken a two-day field assessment to establish a better overview of cut-off locations and requirements. As a result of the findings, a reinforced program is being put in place to supply these areas over the coming period. Three staging areas will be established in Laoag, San Fernando La Union, and Baguio. Logistics Cluster staff will be deployed to these locations in conjunction with government counterparts. The helicopters will be making rotations out of Laoag and Wallace over the coming week.

Through Wednesday, November 4, 183 rotations have taken place to carry 197.1 mt of food and 6.3 mt of NFI, as well as assessment and medical teams. Due to a clear continued need to reach inaccessible areas, the helicopters have now been extended until the end of November.

LET (TNT-Agility-UPS) trucks are still available for deliveries within Metro Manila and to Rizal and Laguna in southern Luzon, but this support is contracted to end on November 10. LET warehousing support, which currently includes interagency storage locations and staff assistance to NROC (the National Resource Operations Center), is also due to end on the same date. Logistics Cluster support to the government in terms of surface transport to northern and southern Luzon and provision of labour to NROC will continue for the coming period.

A map of infrastructure damage caused by the north-west monsoon has been produced and made available.

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Nutrition

Needs: The need for nutrition to maintain general health increases in emergencies. Structural damage caused by flooding has jeopardized access to potable water. Contaminated water supplies increase the risk of water borne diseases. Diarrhoea, other infectious diseases and under-nutrition are main contributors to child deaths. In general, the younger the infant, the higher the risk becomes. Exclusive breastfeeding is the single best way to avoid diarrhoea and other diseases which threaten babies during these emergencies. Unlike water, dangerous bacteria do not contaminate breast milk. In addition, breast milk protects against infection and it provides the right amount of energy to further protect against malnutrition. Donations of infant formula, other milk products, bottles and teats though well-meaning are endangering children's lives. The need is to focus efforts to reduce the risk of not breastfeeding amongst infants who are mix-fed, i.e. breastfed as well as given other foods and liquids; and infants who are not breastfed at all.

Response: Forty (40) health staff from 14 evacuation centres in Muntinlupa were trained on infant feeding in emergencies. In the same municipality a total of 26 educational sessions were conducted where 263 mother-infant pair participated and 23 infants less than 6months old were provided with extra support to breastfeed. Nutrition cluster members are in dialogue with local non-government organizations to support re-lactation through wet-nursing and expressed human milk. UNICEF's courier is supporting the pick-up of donated expressed milk from designated points around metro-Manila for delivery to the Philippine General Hospital human milk bank.

Gaps and Challenges: The limited resources in terms of health workers skilled in infant and young child feeding and number of non-governmental organizations with nutrition program/interventions is challenging the reach and speed of implementation.

Protection

Needs: There is an urgent need for registration of missing, unaccompanied and separated children especially in the Northern part of the country. People are experiencing higher levels of distress, anger and stress due to the closure of evacuation centers. Other issues of concern include trafficking, SGBV, domestic violence, exploitation, security of children and provision of water and sanitation services. Impacts of the disaster on street and working children in Metro Manila still needs to be assessed.

Response: Psychosocial support is being provided to about 10,983 children in 110 affected areas. Over 1,098 volunteers are providing CP services. The CP emergency response is composed of NGOs focusing on street children and anti-tracking, faith-based networks and HIV-AIDS education advocates. The Council for the Welfare of Children (CWC), which is establishing the system for verifying and following-up of cases, is identifying 13 separated and unaccompanied children under the age of two.

Gaps and Challenges: Enlargement of CP activities to reach more affected areas and alternative care arrangements for separated/unaccompanied children are being developed. Major constraints include limited response experience and lack of supplies and resources of local organizations and difficult access and lack of partners in the Northern and Central Luzon areas.

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: The second Laguna Provincial Cluster meeting was held in Santa Cruz on Tuesday. One of the main issues identified at the municipal level is to strengthen capacity of government and NGOs to provide more efficient disaster response. Requests were made for training in disaster preparedness and WASH; in response, a workshop on improving sanitation services is planned on 11th November at Los Banos. Further activities are also being planned.

In response to the sanitation issues identified in earlier needs assessments around Laguna lake, Oxfam is constructing latrines and shower rooms, after conducting assessments in Rizal. The Philippines National Red Cross (PNRC) trained more than 120 hygiene promoters who started work in Laguna, Rizal and Quezon City this week. Australian Aid International (AAI) has started hygiene promotion training for volunteer community-based organization (CBO) partners. HP activities are planned to start next week in evacuation centers (ECs) in Binan City, Laguna. Plan International is conducting assessments in Rizal in Talim Island barangays of Cardona and Binangonan as well as Pililia and Jala-jala. ACF have completed emergency activities in Industrial Valley and Nangka in Marikina City. They are however monitoring the distribution of hygiene and household cleaning kits.

Gaps and Challenges: Challenges remain to reduce the risk from water-borne diseases, i.e. diarrhea, AWD and cholera. Identifying appropriate means for safe excreta disposal in flood prone areas remains challenging. Desludging services in evacuation/relocation camps will also end shortly, and the WASH Cluster has made a formal request to the government WATER Cluster lead for the continuation of such services.

Emergency Telecoms

Response: Security VHF Repeater installation mission to Cabalan/Olongapo is ongoing. No UN/humanitarian sub-office needs identified at this stage. The cluster continues to provide technical support to the humanitarian community in Metro Manila. Security VHF Repeater installation mission to Cabalan/Olongapo continues. Security VHF telecomms repeater installation at RCBC completed; testing of coverage in Metro Manila and Region IV-A continues. Negotiations with authorities together with UNDSS to secure repeater sites in Metro Manila and frequency licensing 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 not confirmed. Northern Metro Manila VHF security communications repeater coverage is limited. Some cellular phone outages from Typhoon Mirinae reported, with most sites already back in operation. Wide-area security communications repeater coverage also limited (Region IV-A).

IV. Coordination

Weekly cluster meetings are taking place, please see meeting schedule posted at the response website (below).

V. Funding

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.

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For more information on the humanitarian response in the Philippines, please visit: <http://www.un.org.ph/response>