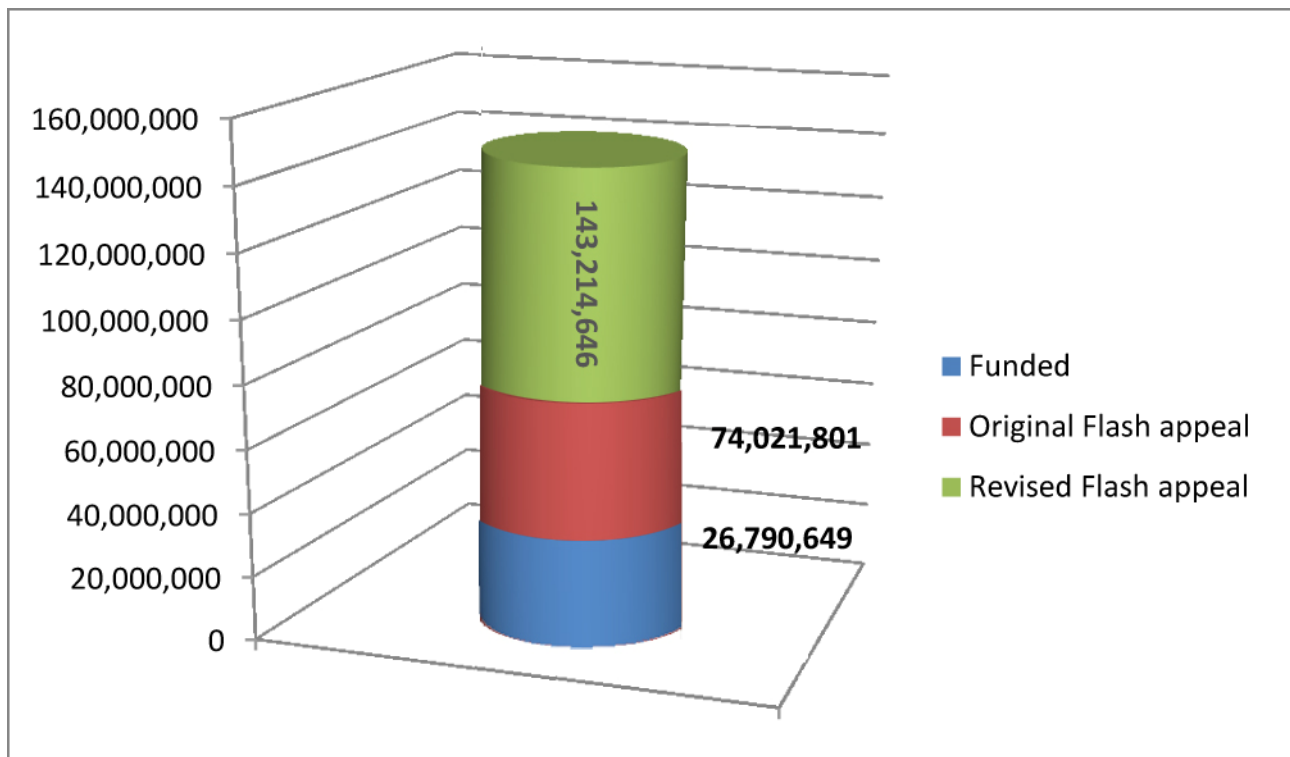


This report was issued by OCHA New York based on inputs from the OCHA Regional Office for Asia Pacific (ROAP) and OCHA Philippines. It covers the period from 5 to 10 November 2009 and addresses Typhoon Parma/Pepeng, Tropical Storm Ketsana/Ondoy as well as Typhoon Mirinae/Santi. The next report will be issued on or around 17 November.

I. HIGHLIGHTS/KEY PRIORITIES

- The humanitarian response effort in the Philippines is hampered by lack of funding, with the current Flash Appeal funded at 36.2 percent as of 10 November.
- The Revised 2009 Philippines Flash Appeal is in its final stages of revision and approval. A launch date will be set for the coming week.
- IASC Partners, donors and Government of the Republic of the Philippines (GRP) counterparts conducted an aerial survey of highly affected regions in Luzon on 10 November. UNHAS helicopter service provided transportation with the objective to give partners an overview of areas of key importance to the Revised Flash Appeal.
- A UNICEF hydraulics specialist, tasked with looking at the Laguna de Bay drainage issue, confirmed earlier reports that there are few short-term solutions other than natural drainage over the next three to six months.

II. Situation Overview



The humanitarian response effort in the Philippines is hampered by lack of funding, with the current Flash Appeal funded at 36.2 percent as of 10 November. Many clusters are now reporting that funding shortfalls have limited their ability to follow through with humanitarian action plans designed to support life saving projects and to launch early recovery efforts.

The Revised 2009 Philippines Flash Appeal is in its final stages of revision and approval. A launch date will be set for the coming week. The revised appeal will take into consideration the dramatic changes that have taken place since the launch of the original appeal in early October, including the devastating effects caused by Typhoons Parma/Pepeng and Mirinae/Santi.

The UN Resident Coordinator/Humanitarian Coordinator, donor countries (Japan, New Zealand, Australia, Germany, Netherlands and European Commission), Government of the Republic of the Philippines (GRP) counterparts, OCHA and WFP conducted an aerial survey of highly affected regions in Luzon on 10 November along with a scheduled distribution of UNICEF NFI packs. UNHAS helicopter service provided transportation to areas of key importance to the Revised Flash Appeal. The flight itinerary included visits to the Municipality of Kibungan in Benguet province, and a flyover of the Laguna Lake region, which was particularly hard hit by the most recent typhoon.

III. Humanitarian Needs and Response

Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene

Needs: The key humanitarian concern is access to safe water, sanitation facilities and hygiene items in the relocation camps and in residential areas affected by the floods. Other top priorities include rehabilitation and improvement of drainage, solid waste collection and vector control.

Response: The humanitarian response is shifting from emergency to recovery. Action Against Hunger (ACF) have completed emergency operations in Marikina, National Capital Region (NCR), and Médecines Sans Frontier-France (MSF-F) will complete emergency operations in Angono, Rizal by next week. Manila Water, through Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage Systems (MWSS), continues to provide water to ECs at the request of Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD). Water trucking to San Pedro will continue at least until 15 November. Manila Water also continues to provide desludging services to ECs. These services will continue until ECs are formally closed. Potential water-borne disease outbreaks remain a risk. MSF-CH continues with its excreta collection project in the flooded areas of San Pedro, and is also interested in a mass information campaign about leptospirosis. Handicap International is working in three barangays in San Matteo helping with waste management. Oxfam teams are active in Laguna and Rizal, and will coordinate with MSF-F to ensure basic WASH facilities continue after MSF-F leave.

Gaps and Challenges: Challenges remain to reduce the risk from water-borne diseases such as diarrhoea, AWD and cholera. Identifying appropriate means for safe excreta disposal in areas that remain flooded or with high water tables.

Food

Needs: WFP revised its estimates of emergency and early recovery needs taking into account new assessment data. These additional needs will be reflected in the revised UN Flash Appeal which will be launched in the coming days.

Response: A Food Cluster Coordination Meeting was held on 10 November with OCHA and NGO partners from Oxfam, Save the Children, ADRA, Salvation Army, and Community Family Services International (CFSI). Food Cluster NGO partners are participating in the Emergency Food Security Assessment (EFSA), jointly led by WFP-GRP, which will provide data to the World Bank-led Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA). WFP has locally procured 5,200 tons of food for allocation to affected regions identified by DSWD. Following a logistical assessment jointly conducted with the government and WFP (Logistics Cluster) last week, WFP has been assisting the Government's relief effort in the inaccessible areas of Northern Luzon (Region I and CAR) by pre-positioning rice in Region I for further deliveries.

WFP and partners are actively involved in early recovery coordination. CFSI-GRP are conducting a validation of food needs in Region III with the Government in 6 provinces targeted for WFP-government food distribution in November. Salvation Army reported that 9,000 out of 28,000 25kg packages of food and non-food items were dispatched in coordination with DSWD/MSWD. The balance of the distribution will be completed by the end of November. ADRA is distributing relief food items (18kg mixed food) to 8,500 families in Laguna Province. Oxfam emergency cash grants targeting 10,000 families in Laguna and Rizal Provinces is underway. Post distribution monitoring is being conducted and will be finalized by the end of November. This programme is targeted for people staying in the ECs to complement on-going relief food distributions.

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 early recovery needs of the affected population in the aftermath of Tropical Storm Ketsana and Typhoon Parma.

Health

Needs: Leptospirosis cases from Regions NCR, I, II, III, IVA and CAR total 3,135 cases, with 241 cumulative mortalities. NEC reports the top morbidities in ECs as of 5 November as acute respiratory illness, skin infections/wounds, diarrhea, febrile illness, influenza-like illness, severe acute respiratory illness, and pneumonia. Assessment of ECs in Sta Rosa and Binan shows that only a few ECs have health services catering to patients with chronic disease or with disabilities. Some centers reported a lack of vaccination services, safe water, and childbirth services.

Response: The GOARN team is consolidating its findings for presentation to the Government. Altogether, 334,966 individuals from NCR and Region IV-A have been given prophylaxis. Areas with reported lack of safe drinking water were shared and referred to the WASH cluster. Weekly tri-cluster meetings are held with the WASH and Nutrition Clusters.

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

Agriculture

Needs: The damages caused by Tropical Storm Miranae (31 October 2009) are estimated at approximately 2,412 hectares (HA) of crop land in 5 provinces in Region IV-A. The estimated production losses are \$3,368,143. The approximate production loss of rice amounts to \$4,173,200 (Dept. Agriculture, Central Action Center 1 November 2009). The total losses and damages to the agriculture and fisheries sector is an estimated \$560,013,285. The findings of a joint DA-FAO preliminary needs assessment indicate immediate needs for emergency supplies of rice and vegetable seeds, as well as fertilizers and repairs to damaged small scale irrigation to prevent significant negative impact on the next harvest season and on the region's food and livelihood security.

Response: FAO has revised the Flash Appeal for the Philippines and included data collected during preliminary assessments conducted in Regions I, II, III and CAR. As a result, 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. FAO is participating in the WFP/VAM needs assessment which is taking place from 7 - 20 November 2009. French NGO Premiere Urgence (PU) is currently conducting a needs assessment focusing on the most severely affected barangays which have not yet been assessed by the FAO – DA and PDNA assessment teams. After the assessment in Pangasinan province in Region I, PU began an assessment in Region II from 4 to 8 November focusing on the Benguet area, which suffered heavy losses in corn production.

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

Camp Coordination

Needs: According to DSWD data there are currently more than 390 evacuation centres (ECs) concentrated mainly in Region IV-A and NCR, hosting a population of approximately 95,000 people. High numbers of displaced people are being recorded as returning to their places of origin. Assessments are ongoing of all the evacuation sites, however, with limited human resources, not all ECs have yet been assessed. Efforts are being made to encourage DSWD to lead this data collection. 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 by engaging government authorities in data collection. The CCCM/NFI Displacement Tracking Matrix has compiled multi-sector data on 159 ECs principally through IOM camp management liaison teams. Meetings with Regional Directors of DSWD for Regions III, IV-A and NCR are being held this week 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 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.

Education

Needs: The total typhoon-related school damages reported to the Education Cluster have now risen to over PhP 1.5 billion (more than \$31 million), taking into account damages to structures, teaching materials and equipment in nearly 3000 schools. As of 4 November, 100 schools in Luzon were still being used as evacuation centres (ECs) housing a total of 9734 people.

Response: The cluster has been engaged in writing the Post-Disaster Needs Assessment report, which is being finalized. On 24 November, a special cluster workshop will be held on DRR in education focusing on *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.*

the initiatives that are already being implemented in the Philippines. These include the new Disaster Risk Reduction Resource manual produced by DepEd with support of UNICEF as well as other DRR good practices initiated by other cluster partners.

Gaps and Challenges: A total of 2,936 elementary and high schools have needed rehabilitation or reconstruction since the onset of the emergency. Construction standards should be reviewed in order to ensure disaster risk reduction standards are being met. Close cooperation between the WASH and Education Clusters is necessary to incorporate the necessary water, sanitation and hand washing infrastructure standards in these schools. Cleaning and clearing of schools used as ECs and waste management are issues pending discussion. The cluster is currently developing a monitoring format to prevent gaps and duplication in the implementation of activities by the different cluster partners.

Emergency Shelter

Needs: NDCC reports that, as of 9 November, Typhoon Mirinae/Santi has affected 143,849 families (657,751 persons) in 13 provinces. Of this number, 10,185 families (47,909 persons) are temporarily relocated in 152 ECs. The report also shows an additional 46,466 houses damaged (8,937 totally and 37,529 partially). On average 16 percent of damaged houses, or almost 43,000 houses, have been “totally” damaged by the three typhoons.

Response: The 14 organizations working in a coordinated manner through the Emergency Shelter Cluster are awaiting confirmation of funding, in order to be able to initiate their response. This funding may come from either the flash appeal or other funding mechanisms. Current plans are to serve 67,500 households with a repair kit, a shelter kit or a transitional shelter. Joint meetings at regional level have been setup with the DSWD and CCCM Cluster to better coordinate and harmonize operations. Access to more detailed information is being provided by social workers collecting data at the barangay level.

Gaps and Challenges: The total official number of damaged houses has risen to nearly 260,000 units. The planned support from the Shelter Cluster will cover - pending confirmation of funding - about 52 percent of the total need (assuming that 50 percent of total figure requires support). This represents a significant gap.

Protection

Needs: Access to basic but adequate assistance, such as adequate shelter, and services for individuals at risk must be facilitated to prevent already existing vulnerabilities and inequalities from worsening. As ECs close, information mechanisms must be established, so that affected persons have the possibility to make well-informed decisions on whether to return to their former homes, relocate or return to their places of origin.

Response: The Protection Cluster has embarked on a one week participatory protection assessment exercise, with field assessments covering ECs, relocation sites and areas at risk for either flooding or landslides. The assessment will encompass a wide range of protection-related concerns, and the findings will provide for identification of needs, capacities and gaps in the protection response, forming the basis for prioritization and a work plan for the cluster.

Gaps and Challenges: Many remaining ECs are still overcrowded. Some lack electricity and telephones. The destruction of the houses has in many cases affected the most disadvantaged section of society, those that live in makeshift shelters. Being displaced, they have also been separated from their livelihoods, schools, and support structures. A cross-cutting, holistic approach is required to find sustainable solutions.

Logistics

Needs: Accessibility in northern Luzon remains a serious issue due to damaged bridges and landslides. The priority in Region I has been identified as Apayao province, followed by the municipalities of Calanasan and Malibcong. In Benguet, isolated barangays in Atok, Kapangan, Tuba, Kibungan and Itogon remain in dire need of assistance.

Response: Following a two-day assessment of northern Luzon, the Logistics Cluster is in the process of establishing three staging areas in Laoag, San Fernando La Union, and Baguio. Mobile Storage Units have now been installed and Logistics Cluster staff deployed to all three locations. Cargo was positioned in each location over the weekend for onward transport. The warehouses will be staffed by the DSWD and the army will assist with both light trucks and labour. One of the helicopters will be based in Laoag for the coming days and flights have already taken place to Poblacion, Butao and Namaltugan. Sorties were also carried out today from Lucena in Southern Luzon. Both warehouse facilities and helicopter deliveries to cut-off locations are available for inter-agency use. Agility support to the LET (TNT-Agility-UPS Logistics Emergency Team) will be ending on 10 October, however UPS has now extended its assistance of three UPS trucks, one warehouse, and staff deployed to NROC (the National Resource Operations Center). These will remain deployed to the relief operation until the end of November. Maps of the inaccessible locations being targeted in the North-West and Benguet have been produced and are available on the Logistics Cluster website at: www.logcluster.org.

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Emergency Telecoms

Response: The security VHF Repeater installation in Cabalan/Olongapo has been finalized and linking and testing has commenced. Cellular outages caused by Typhoon Mirinae have been reported repaired. No UN/humanitarian sub-office needs have been identified at this stage. The cluster continues to provide technical support to the humanitarian community in Metro Manila. The security VHF telecoms repeater installation at RCBC has been completed and testing of coverage in Metro Manila and Region IV-A continues. Gaps and Challenges: UN/Humanitarian sub-office hubs in the affected areas have not yet been confirmed. Northern Metro Manila VHF security communications repeater coverage is limited. Wide-area security communications repeater coverage is also limited in Region IV-A.

IV. Coordination

The Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) field missions were completed November 6, with data analysis and report preparation underway. The PDNA will include a Recovery Framework that is to be harmonized with the revised Flash Appeal and will address short-term (up to November 2010) and medium-term (November 2010-November 2012) recovery needs. The PDNA report and recovery framework are to be completed by November 23.

V. Funding

The Financial Tracking Service shows that, as of 10 November, the Philippines 2009 Flash Appeal has been 36.2 percent funded, having received \$26 million of the originally requested \$74 million. The revision of the 2009 Philippines Flash Appeal has now been forwarded to the CAP section in Geneva for revision and approval. The launch of the Revised Flash Appeal is likely to take place in the coming 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.

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