

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 6 to 8 October 2009. Unless the humanitarian situation worsens significantly, Situation Reports will be issued twice weekly as from next week. The next report will be issued on or around 12 October.

For a full report from the National Disaster Coordinating Council (NDCC) report on the Government response, please visit www.ndcc.gov.ph

I. HIGHLIGHTS/KEY PRIORITIES

- **Latest information from the NDCC indicates that 908,869 people (188,997 families) were affected by typhoon Parma (known locally as *Pepeng*), with 20 confirmed deaths and 43,849 people (9,933 families) located in 200 evacuation centres.**
- **The system has now weakened to a tropical depression, but has reversed direction twice over northern Luzon. It is currently located above Cagayan province and slowly moving westwards. Associated rainfall is expected to lead to increased flooding in Region II and Cordillera Administrative Region. Reports have already been received of evacuation centres re-opening.**
- **Due to persistent rain in the upstream reaches of the upper Agno river basin, the San Roque Dam has increased its release rate to a total discharge rate of 2,500 cubic metres per second. This has the potential to affect the 2 million people living in Tarlac province. PAGASA has released flood warnings for several areas in Region III.**
- **The number recorded as affected by tropical storm Ketsana (locally named *Ondoy*) has continued to rise. The storm affected 4,081,159 people (889,314 families), leaving 298 dead and 39 missing. A total of 339,251 people are currently in 527 evacuation centres, according to NDCC.**

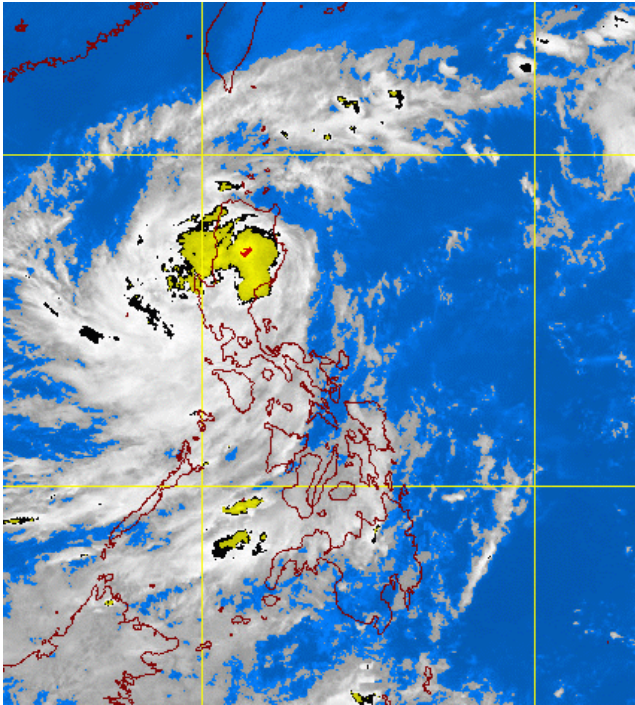
II. Situation Overview

Tropical depression Parma (known locally as *Pepeng*) has recently weakened in strength but also reversed its direction twice over Cagayan province in Region II. PAGASA now expects the system to move west slowly from its current position 40km south of Tuguegarao City. Associated rainfall will almost certainly lead to increased flooding. Reports have been received of evacuation centres re-opening. The storm has affected more than 900,000 people, with 43,849 people (9,933 families) in evacuation centres as of 8 October, according to NDCC. Some villages in the area are still inaccessible. However, the latest information from the United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) teams in the area indicates that while major damage has been caused to agricultural land, immediate humanitarian needs are less extensive than anticipated.

Due to persistent rain in the upstream reaches of the upper Agno river basin, the San Roque Dam increased its current release rate to a total discharge rate of 2,500 cubic metres per second. This has the potential to affect the 2 million people living in Tarlac province. The main route into the province has already been cut and an evacuation is underway. PAGASA has released flood warnings for a number of areas in Region III. UNDAC will dispatch an assessment team to Region III on the morning of 8 October.

The recorded number of people affected by tropical storm Ketsana (known locally as *Ondoy*) continues to rise. According to NDCC, the storm affected 4,081,159 people (889,314 families). A total of 298 people are dead and 39 still missing. A total of 339,251 people are currently in 527 evacuation centres in affected areas. UNDAC teams reported rising floodwaters around Laguna Lake on 8 October.

Typhoon Parma Satellite Image (*Pepeng*)



Graphic: Image taken at 17:00, 8-Oct-09: PAGASA

III. Humanitarian Needs and Response

Needs Assessments and Priorities

UNDAC assessments continue in Metro Manila, with reports that floodwaters are rising. Assessments were conducted on 6 October in Taguig and Muntlupa cities (Metro Manila). Reports state that most of the cities on the Laguna shorefront are affected by rising waters. On 7 October, UNDAC carried out assessments in Malabon and Navatos (Metro Manila) with no immediate humanitarian needs reported. A return assessment will be made on 8 October in Taytay and an initial assessment in San Mateo (both in Rizal Province).

The UNDAC team leader briefed the Inter-Agency Steering Committee Country Team (IASC CT) on the latest assessment information and shared that based on current needs the UNDAC team is likely to complete its mission in the Philippines by 15 or 16 October. The IASC CT was encouraged to make best use of the team, MapAction and Telecoms Sans Frontieres assets while they remain in the country.

On 6 October, the UNDAC team in Cagayan province (Region II) carried out rapid needs assessments of Aparri, Buguey, Sta. Teresita, Gonzaga and Sta. Ana Municipalities. The team met with regional and provincial government officials on 7 October. The assessments and meeting continue to show severe impact on the agricultural sector, but minimal humanitarian needs caused by typhoon Parma (*Pepeng*). The team was carrying out further assessments in the area on 8 October.

Despite an increase in rainfall, the UNDAC team currently deployed to Cagayan is planning to return to Manila on Saturday morning by commercial airline. The vehicles will depart at the same time and drive back to Manila. This is dependent on the status of the WFP vehicle that was damaged in an accident on 6 October. It is being repaired but its status is still unclear. This will allow the UNDAC team to focus on priority assessments in the National Capital Region. For further information on UNDAC assessments, refer to the website (<http://www.un.org.ph/response>).

Food Security

Humanitarian Needs: The food cluster is working to ensure that food needs are measured rapidly, but with a level of consistency so that needs can be prioritized. A revised food assessment questionnaire was prepared on 7 October and distributed to NGOs and UNDAC. It will also be shared with NDCC.

Humanitarian Response: WFP dispatching high-energy biscuits to UNFPA to complement medical services being provided to 14,000 pregnant and lactating women in flood-affected areas of the National Capital Region (NCR). As from 9 October, WFP will work with Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) to undertake food specific assessments around the Laguna Lake.

Gaps and Constraints: Analysis of key gaps is being undertaken.

Health

Humanitarian Needs: The risk of communicable disease is still high. The Secretary of Health has ordered a five-day measles immunization campaign for children from 9 to 59 months old in all affected areas. The total damage to health facilities is estimated at US\$19.6 million. Psychosocial support for affected communities and responders is required. Ensuring pregnant and lactating women have access to appropriate care is also required.

Humanitarian Response: The following teams have been deployed to 235 sites: 141 medical; 12 psychosocial; nine WASH; six assessment/surveillance; 27 public health; and one nutrition. More teams are set to be deployed. A total of 6,060 jerry cans donated by WHO to 17 Local Government Units (LGUs) have been distributed (5,100 in NCR, 960 to eight LGUs in Region IV-A). WHO is providing continuous technical support to the Department of Health, and has recruited technical and logistics staff to support HEMS. A total of 60 basic health kits and hospital kits, 250,000 AD-syringes and 500 "BD Hub Cutters" will be supplied to the Department of Health for its measles vaccination campaign.

Gaps and Constraints: Continuing floods continue to limit accessibility. There is a need to establish a referral system for emergency cases from inaccessible areas. According to the International Organization for Migration (IOM), health services are not being provided in two of the four evacuation centres in Taguig; all three centres in Caloocan; three of the eight centres in Pasig; and one of the five centres in Quezon City.

Education

Humanitarian Needs: As of 7 October, 182 schools are being used as evacuation centres, housing 20,139 families (42 in NCR, 119 in Region IV-A, 21 in Region III). Thirty-seven schools are still submerged in mud and flood waters in Region IV-A (35 in Rizal and two in Valenzuela City), and have been unable to resume classes, according to the Department of Education. Kalawaaan Elementary School in Pasig City and five other schools are still flooded. However, the IDPs from this school were transferred to either Malacañang or University of Life Training and Recreational Arena (ULTRA), within the Department of Education's complex in Pasig. The total damages to classrooms currently stands at PhP372,292,840.00 (approximately US\$8 million). Thirty of the 126 day care centres in Taguig are still flooded.

Humanitarian Response: The Department of Education reports that repair and rehabilitation work is ongoing in 30 schools and that various relief goods have been donated to damaged schools from unaffected regions. Plan International has begun distributing relief goods and carrying out emergency education activities in Rizal province. UNICEF is procuring materials to respond to the educational needs of 17,643 children in Pasig and Marikina cities. An Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) package and library set has been given to Pinagbuhatan in Pasig. The same will be sent to ULTRA, which is currently housing 1,700 IDPs. A Child-Friendly Space is due to be established in ULTRA by 8 October. World Vision has established five Child-Friendly Spaces (Marikina, Cainta, Pasig, Angono 1 and Angono 2) that will benefit approximately 1,850 children.

Gaps and Constraints: Strengthened coordination between WASH, health and education clusters is required. The cluster lead is calling for improved information sharing between members of the Education in Emergencies Network. Information management in evacuation centres needs to be considerably strengthened. Available data is not disaggregated for children by age group. Coordination and communication needs to be improved between community leaders, local government units, relief agencies, private donors and displaced people. Flooding and mud continue to severely limit access to some evacuation centres. Alternative means of delivering assistance may be required if flooding persists in heavily flooded areas. Additional teachers and day care workers are needed in evacuation centres.

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Emergency Telecommunications

Humanitarian Response:

WFP is conducting an assessment of the United Nations repeater site at Antipolo, together with Ericsson Philippines engineers in preparation for installation of a new tower and infrastructure to increase wide area VHF coverage. Reports from NDCC and Ericsson confirm that 95 percent of cellular coverage in affected regions is operational. Initial emergency telecommunications equipment from Dubai has arrived. It includes repeaters, emergency power supplies and basic IT equipment included and is awaiting clearance. TSF is providing ICT support to the UNDAC team deployed in Region II in the aftermath of Typhoon Parma (in collaboration with AHP Singapore). TSF set up communications for the On-Site Operations Coordination Centre OSOCC, based at the Regional Disaster Coordinating Council (RDCC) in Tuguerarao, the capital of Region II. Dedicated satellite-based internet, phone and fax lines are available to support coordination. TSF also conducted an assessment on the needs of the affected civilians in Region II. On 7 October, TSF organized a meeting with PLDT, National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) and Department for Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) in Region II to see how free local and international calls could be provided to the population in the evacuation centres using local capacity in the event of future emergencies. PLDT, DSWD and NTC agreed to sign a Memorandum of Agreement to formalize standard operating procedures (SOPs) where PLDT would open phone lines to public both for local and international calls at the evacuation centres. TSF will draft the MOA and PLDT, DSWD and NTC will amend/comment and hopefully sign soon. Reports from PLDT indicate 90 percent of PSTN lines are now operational and GSM/GPRS/EDGE/3G is available in Cagayan and Isabella areas of Region II. TSF is running a Humanitarian Communications Center at the NDCC Manila. The cluster continues to provide technical/call-centre support to the humanitarian community in Manila, Region II and Region IV-A.

Gaps and Constraints: Internet services are mostly operational. ISPs are re-establishing themselves. However, EDGE/3G is available. United Nations/humanitarian sub-office hubs in the affected areas are not confirmed. Northern Metro Manila VHF repeater coverage is limited. Wide-area repeater coverage also limited (Region IV-A).

Next steps: Assessments of telecommunication gaps (on-going). Operational plans for ETC deployments to be finalized. Once cleared, equipment from Dubai will be installed to improve repeater coverage in Metro Manila and affected areas.

Logistics

Humanitarian Response: The “one-stop shop” for customs clearance is now open in the Bureau of Customs at Nino Aquino International Airport. It is staffed by representatives from the Ministry of Finance, customs, Department of Social Welfare and Development, Department of Health and NDCC.

Next Steps: After a short delay, two MI-171 helicopters are due to arrive in the Philippines on 9 October. A third helicopter (Mi-8T) will follow shortly. Following assembly, helicopter operations are expected to start operations early next week. The SOPs for passengers will be disseminated by mailing list this evening. Passenger and cargo request forms and the SOP for cargo will be made available as soon as the start date is fixed. A draft Logistics Cluster Concept of Operations will be disseminated shortly for input from the humanitarian community.

Camp Management and Camp Coordination and NFIs

Humanitarian Response: IOM, in coordination with cluster partners, has assessed 63 evacuation centres using the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM). It has identified a significant drop in the occupation of some centres, while other centres are increasing with families from emptied facilities. The cluster has requested that all cluster partners and leads aid in the development of a Barangay-specific survey to help track and monitor shifting populations to ensure proper service delivery.

Gaps and Challenges: There is an absence of critical data related to displaced populations living in and around evacuation centres in spontaneous settlements. Areas such as Rizal and Laguna have yet to be completely assessed as the areas can only be assessed by boat or air and the weather is hampering efforts. Certain areas in Region IV-A and the NCR have still not been assessed or data is not complete. The cluster is making attempts to identify partners in the assessment effort. Partners and assessment teams of Evacuation Centers not coordinating with the cluster are asked to use the Displacement Tracking Questionnaire to ensure standardized assessments are made in the clusters area of focus. The updated *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.*

DTM for yesterday is available on the Clusters website: <http://groups.google.com/group/cccm-philippines>. All partners are encouraged to join the cluster and should contact Chris Hoffman choffman@iom.int CCCM/NFI Cluster Lead for meeting times and information.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Humanitarian Needs: Access to safe water, sanitation facilities and hygiene items in the relocation camps and in residential areas where people are clearing up after the floods. Rehabilitation and improvement of drainage, solid waste collection and vector control.

Humanitarian Response: The government has now established separate Water and WASH Clusters. Division of labour is as follows: the Water Cluster, chaired by the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage Systems (MWSS) is responsible for 1) water supply, 2) excreta disposal, 3) non-food relief item (NFRI) distribution, 4) solid waste clean-up, 5) drainage and waste water management and 6) technical and engineering standards in response to areas affected by the floods from typhoon *Ondoy*. The WASH Cluster, chaired by the Department of Health (DOH) is responsible for overall WASH emergency policies and other operations not related to *Ondoy*. Specifically, 1) Water quality, 2) hygiene promotion, 3) epidemiology monitoring for WASH related diseases, 4) medical waste disposal, 5) vector control and 6) health related standards. The Water Cluster will be disbanded after the response to *Ondoy* is complete. The first water cluster meeting was held on Thursday afternoon on 8 October at the MWSS offices. (Information from the meeting will be included in the next sitrep). UNICEF is deploying a solid waste specialist to assist the MWSS with the flood clear-up.

Gaps and Constraints: A sector specific WASH assessment is not available. A full map of the actors in garbage collection and clean up is not available. The recent change in government coordination structures in the sector has posed challenges.

Early Recovery

Humanitarian response: Members finalized a terms of reference for a rapid assessment and tool and officially submitted to the Office of Civil Defence as Government Cluster Lead.

Next Steps: On the request of the Local Government of Cainta, an ER cluster assessment mission will be conducted in Cainta on October 9, 2009. UNDP is consulting with the local governments of Marikina, Taguig, Pateros, Pasig and San Mateo in cooperation with the OCD on the schedule of assessment missions.

IV. Funding/Flash Appeal

A local launch of the Flash Appeal took place in Manila on 7 October. Senior government figures, including the Honorable Gilberto C. Teodoro, Defense Secretary and Chairman of the NDCC, took part, alongside the United Nations Resident Coordinator, representatives of humanitarian organizations and members of the donor community.

All humanitarian partners, including donors and recipient agencies, are encouraged to inform the Financial Tracking Service of cash and in-kind contributions by sending an email to: fts@reliefweb.int

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