

Response: The WASH cluster is fully active, with WASH focal point agencies having been assigned to all ECs and the overall capacity growing rapidly. A sanitation strategy is being finalized by the Department of Health (DOH)/WASH Cluster, including working with Local Government Unit (LGU) for construction of sewage disposal sites in both CDO and Iligan.

The Government's Water District (WD) has increased main water supply to the eastern side of the river, through further system upgrades. The total quantity of water available is sufficient to meet emergency needs. The challenge remains with the transportation of water from these sources to the affected populations on the western side of CDO city. Water storage tanks and tap stands are being established in ECs; the task should be completed in the next few days. The Swiss Development Aid Water Team in conjunction with WD have confirmed that the water supply in the CDO network is satisfactory.

Pit toilet construction will be rapidly scaled up over the coming days. To date 15 Eco-San toilets have been completed by Xavier University. Distribution of hygiene kits and jerry cans as well as water disinfection have begun and will continue with increased intensity over the coming days. Some 5,524 families (both inside and outside of ECs) have received jerry cans; 1,972 hygiene kits were also delivered. Large shipments of WASH items are expected today. Save the Children has commenced hygiene promotion activities in some ECs.

Gaps & Constraints: Rapid upscale across all WASH activities continues to be required. At this stage the provision of water trucks and construction/provision of latrines are the key priorities. There is also a need to expand WASH assistance to affected population outside CDO and Iligan and those living with relatives or home-based. Medium- and long-term plans for transitional housing, and thus necessary WASH infrastructure, remain unclear.



FOOD SECURITY

Needs: An additional 54,000 people have been assessed to be affected in Lanao del Sur province in the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), bringing the total number of people in need of immediate food assistance to 250,000. It is expected that this figure will increase as soon as more assessments are concluded outside ECs in CDO and Iligan, especially in remote barangays (villages) that were equally affected by the storm. Ready-to-use and nutritionally-appropriate food assistance continues to be the key priority need for the affected people, with the bulk of assistance required in CDO and Iligan cities.

Furthermore, as most of the affected population's livelihoods and income sources have been temporarily disrupted, thereby limiting ability to purchase food. Assistance in the form of cash programming would therefore be an appropriate intervention.

Response: In order to meet the immediate nutritional requirements of the affected people, the Food Security cluster continues to distribute 53 tonnes of High Energy Biscuits (HEBs) targeting a total of 160,000 people. The distribution of supplementary ready-to-use Plumpy' Doz also continues, targeting a total of 15,000 children under 5 years old in ECs in CDO, Iligan as well as in Lanao Del Sur. In addition to noodles and family food packs, the Philippines Red Cross, the private sector and the Government have also been distributing food.

On 24 December, the cluster distributed 124 tonnes of rice and 6.2 tonnes of oil to a total of 14,880 persons inside and outside of ECs in CDO and Iligan, with additional distributions to CDO, Iligan and other affected areas, including Lanao del Sur, planned in the coming 2-3 days. In this regard, about 300 tonnes of rice and vegetable oil have been prepositioned in CDO and Marawi City, while more trucks are on the way with aid supplies from WFP's Cotabato warehouses.

The Food cluster is undertaking a post emergency (early recovery) assessment for appropriate programmes that will assist the affected families restore their livelihoods. Such programmes will include cash for work and food for work initiatives that will focus on clearing the debris, reconstructing public utilities, clearing the drainage as well as establishing flood control measures.

Gaps & Constraints: The Government, through the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) has officially requested the Food cluster to provide immediate and life-saving food assistance to the 250,000 severely affected people. The cluster urgently requires \$8.4 million for this activity.

While the attention of the humanitarian community focuses on CDO and Iligan cities, the impact of the storm on Lanao Del Sur remains underestimated. The cluster, in collaboration with the Government, is working on providing immediate assistance as needed.

More assessments are required with particular focus on those affected by the storm in remote villages (barangays) as well as for those living with relatives and friends outside ECs.



CAMP COORDINATION AND MANAGEMENT / NON-FOOD ITEMS / SHELTER

Needs: The NDRRMC noted a slight increase in the number of homes damaged following additional reports from various local government officials. As of 26 December there are 39,437 damaged houses, including 19,952 in CDO and 11,100 in Iligan.

Response: The Shelter cluster, led by the DSWD, met on 24 December to identify possible sites for temporary relocation of families currently lodged in classrooms before 4 January, 2012. A three-hectare area of land in Sitio Calaanan has been identified as one of possible sites to set-up temporary shelters. A technical working group from the CCCM and Shelter clusters (DSWD, IOM, UN-Habitat) met yesterday to discuss the design of temporary shelter and basic facilities to be constructed in Sitio Calaanan. The group also identified available spaces within the school grounds to which those families could be transferred.

Various humanitarian agencies continue to provide support within the ECs. Save the Children (STC) and the Mindanao Emergency Response Network (MERN) are partnering with Xavier University to prepare and distribute NFI kits. Hygiene promotion sessions were also conducted to children in ECs. STC also have 1,325 jerry cans and 1,118 water kits ready for distribution. IOM distributed 300 NFI kits in Iligan City and 500 NFI kits in CDO.

Gaps & Constraints: Based on initial findings from IOM's displacement monitoring report, the following needs are identified in ECs: (i) shelter materials such as tents, plastic sheets, coco lumber for the impending transfer of families currently sheltered in classrooms to facilitate timely resumption of classes, (ii) continuous access to safe drinking water, (iii) lack of sanitation facilities such as latrines, solid waste management, proper draining and cooking areas, and (iv) NFIs such as hygiene kits, household items and cleaning items.



LOGISTICS

Needs: The most urgent logistics needs include: (i) transport of relief goods from Manila, Davao and Catabato to CDO and Iligan, (ii) transport support for DSWD in Manila and Mindanao, (iii) storage of food and NFIs in CDO and Iligan, as well as (iv) coordination with the Office of Civil Defense (OCD), DSWD, the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), LGUs and other clusters.

Response: Some 19.8 tonnes of HEBs, 43.6 tonnes of NFIs and 2500 tarpaulins were transported from Manila to CDO and Iligan. The majority of the supplies were transported by the Government, the Philippines Air Force and Air Asia. The remainder of the shipment is due to arrive in CDO on 28 December by sea. Meanwhile, 30 tonnes of HEBs has been transported from Davao to CDO/Iligan using WFP commercial transporters. Plan International has not yet reported on their planned transport of 62.82 tonnes of NFIs.

Gaps & Constraints: UNFPA, UNICEF and UNHCR are requesting storage space in CDO and Iligan. WFP warehouse in National Food Authority (NFA) compound in CDO and WFP office in Iligan are ready to provide short term storage service as requested. Coordination of transport from CDO airport to DSWD and WFP warehouses using AFP trucks and WFP commercial trucks is carried out by WFP logistics staff deployed in CDO. Depending on volume of incoming relief goods, international organizations should seek longer-term storage space in Iligan.



HEALTH, INCLUDING REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

Needs: Equipment and supplies of health facilities serving as birthing centers have been destroyed by the floods and so women giving birth in affected villages have to be referred to hospitals in the city. In 12 EC's in CDO indicate the following: 207 pregnant women and 158 lactating women.

The most common illnesses include acute respiratory infection, wounds, skin diseases, diarrhea, hypertension. While no outbreaks have occurred, cases of diarrhea are increasing in ECs that have submitted surveillance reports. Mental health and psycho-social support services remain limited to a few ECs.

Response: The Department of Health (DOH) central office continues to provide material and technical support to its regional health offices in the affected areas. Support from other regional health offices in the form of materials and supplies and human resources continue to be deployed. The DOH regional office convenes a tri-cluster (Health, WASH, Nutrition) meeting daily in its office in Carmen, CDO and is inviting all agencies and organizations providing health-related humanitarian assistance to the meetings for better coordination of activities.

Tetanus toxoid immunization, measles vaccination for children below 15 years old, and polio vaccination for children under 5 were provided in Tibasak, Kauswagon and Balulang.

UNFPA is continuing with its registration of pregnant and lactating women. Some 2,000 sets of women's underwear, 1,700 dignity kits (hygiene kits), and 5,000 blankets are to be delivered to CDO and Iligan today for distribution in ECs. Equipment and supplies procured by WHO for 17 damaged health facilities arrived today at DOH central office warehouse. They will be delivered to the Council for Health and Development, Region X in the next few days.

Gaps & Constraints: Health promotion and education activities for the prevention of communicable diseases like diarrhea need to be stepped up. Psycho-social support services remain limited to a small percentage of the affected people. As more and more humanitarian groups are providing assistance, coordination for more efficient delivery of services needs to be strengthened. Local and international NGOs, civil society organizations, faith-based groups are urged to get in touch with DOH. The lack of funding support limits the relief operations of cluster agencies.



EDUCATION

Needs: The number of affected school children is higher than initially expected, reaching over 200,000. Psycho-social support services to affected school children, now estimated at 118,816 in Iligan and CDO alone, need to be extended. Equally important is the need to prepare for the start of the school activities set for 4 January, 2012. In particular, securing adequate learning spaces, specifically in areas where school buildings need re-construction/repair or continue to serve as evacuation centres, remains a challenge. Given that relocation sites for evacuees have not yet been identified, the process of setting up temporary learning centers alongside provision of adequate learning materials and supplies need to be prioritised.

Response: Region X Education cluster is implementing the psycho-social operational plan, with the psychosocial teams currently conducting sessions among affected school-aged children with the aim to prepare them for the resumption of classes. The sessions, led by some 177 volunteers from the Department of Education (DepEd), World Vision, Community and Family Services International (CFSI), Plan International, STC and Xavier University, began on 22 December and will continue to be run through till the end of the week in different areas in CDO.

UNICEF delivered to DepEd, Region X the following materials: 365 school packs; ten library kits; two 42-square-meter tents; two 72-square-meter tents and eight tarpaulins. Some 30 recreational kits from the stockpile of CFSI in Cotabato were also delivered. Some of the supplies are now being used for the psycho-social sessions run by cluster members; while the school packs are being prepared for the opening of classes.

Education cluster, supported by DepEd, Region X, is also preparing to conduct a children tracking exercise using the Rapid Child Registration (RCR). The exercise will also enable the cluster to further assess the affected schools in terms of flood damage.

UNICEF is now preparing for the training of 100 volunteers on psycho-social assistance and education in emergencies who will subsequently deploy for 10 days to the affected areas. These volunteers will also help in the RCR and assessment.

Gaps & Constraints: Further need exists for psycho-social support to the affected populations.



NUTRITION

Needs: Optimal feeding practices for infants and young children are protected and considered a key response priority of the cluster. It is estimated that some 8,500 pregnant and 4,200 lactating women are affected.

Capacity of DOH staff should be enhanced, in particular as far as the Nutrition cluster approach and nutrition in emergencies, including screening and surveillance, are concerned.

Response:

Infant and Young Child Feeding support: IYCF/Infant Feeding in Emergencies (IYCF-E) capacity-building for local health staff is on-going. The BNSs will serve as infant and child nutrition focal points in each EC.

Micronutrient nutrition: DOH is providing Vitamin A supplements to children 6-59 months old and postpartum women as well as iron folate supplementation to pregnant and lactating women in all ECs. UNICEF supported CHD, Region X with information, education and communications materials on IYCF, Multiple Micronutrient Powders (MNPs) for children 6-59 months old in ECs, and supplies for nutrition screening and management of acute malnutrition, the latter in collaboration with German Doctors Hospital. Meanwhile, WFP is distributing Ready-to-use Supplementary Food (RUSF) to all children 6-59 months in ECs in CDO and Iligan.

Nutritionists from the Rural Health Team Placement Program (RHTP) of DOH have been deployed to CDO and Iligan to work with the cluster. The Nutrition cluster is developing a harmonized response plan to ensure proper coordination with the regional and city health offices.

Gaps & Constraints: Overall capacity for nutrition in emergencies, including surveillance, information management, and cluster coordination needs to be reinforced.



PROTECTION, INCLUDING CHILD PROTECTION AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

Needs: There is a lack of protection mechanisms for vulnerable sub-groups, such as pregnant and lactating women (PLW's), female heads of households, single women, people with disabilities and the elderly.

There are also no community-based child protection networks in ECs. Some children have been separated from their parents or are unaccompanied. There are currently no recreation activities available for children in the centres. However, the Iligan City DRRMCC has set up a counselling committee with faith-based groups and NGOs. There is a lack of clothing and footwear in children's sizes. Around 87,500 children require registration and camp coordination to protect them from abuse, exploitation and trafficking in evacuation centres. Aside from school buildings, some child development centres remain totally damaged or destroyed.

Response: UNICEF is mobilizing the Child Protection Working Group (CPWG) partners to conduct assessment in ECs. UNICEF with Plan International are working with the government of Iligan on protection of children from any exploitation, abuse and trafficking. UNICEF will conduct. UNICEF also works with DSWD for the formation of community-based child protection networks in ECs.

Gender-based Violence (GBV) sub-cluster is set to be convened. A GBV Adviser will be deployed in the affected areas to coordinate prevention and mainstreaming in all humanitarian clusters. The GBV Safety Audit is being done in ECs to determine protection gaps. DOH is leading a group on psycho-social protection. Advocacy with DSWD on ensuring rights of women under the family access card was pushed and guaranteed.

Gaps & Constraints: Camp management committees are still being established and made functional. Number of evacuees in ECs has ballooned due to the inability of residents from identified hazard prone areas to return to their villages and the fact that smaller ECs were combined.

IV. Coordination

The Mindanao Humanitarian Team will meet on 26 December in Cagayan de Oro to take stock of the needs and ongoing response, as well as discuss operational challenges and the coordination structure.

The acting Resident/Humanitarian Coordinator will chair a Humanitarian Country Team meeting on 29 December in Cagayan de Oro to strengthen coordination between the national and sub-national humanitarian coordination structures. The HCT will also discuss key challenges and ways forward.

The humanitarian mission of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) is visiting the Philippines from 25-30 December. The delegation is led by the Humanitarian Affairs Department (ICHAD) and includes representatives from the Islamic Solidarity Fund and OIC Minorities Department.

OCHA is tracking assessments and 3W (who, what, where) conducted by humanitarian partners in the storm affected areas on the Philippines Humanitarian Response website: <http://ph.one.un.org/response>. Humanitarian partners can provide inputs and updates to the matrix by emailing OCHA: addawe@un.org.

VI. Contact

CAGAYAN DE ORO AND ILIGAN: Cluster Co-Lead Contact List

CLUSTER	Agency	Focal Point	Mobile	Email
Inter-agency Coordination	UN OCHA	Farah Muktar Agnes Palacio	09175878179 09175528413	muktar@un.org palacio@un.org
CCCM / NFI / Shelter	IOM	Dave Bercasio	09088654546	dbercasio@iom.int
Early Recovery	UNDP	Winston Camarinas	09178369309	winston.camarinas@undp.org
Education	UNICEF	Yul Olaya	09202654500	yaolaya@unicef.org
Food	WFP	Masanobu Horie	09175942666	masanobu.horie@wfp.org
Health	WHO	Gerardo Medina	09088633163	medinag@wpro.who.int
Reproductive Health	UNFPA	Ronnel Villas	09175955424	villas@unfpa.org
Logistics	WFP	Dragoslav Djuraskovic	09178293175	dragoslav.djuraskovic@wfp.org
Protection	UNHCR	Arjun Jain	09189468086	jain@unhcr.org
Child Protection	UNICEF	Edward Lacanilao	09088963541	elacanilao@gmail.com
Gender-based Violence	UNFPA	Ronnel Villas	09175955424	villas@unfpa.org
WASH	UNICEF	Nicole Hahn	09178925780	msnicolehahn@gmail.com

For the latest contact list, please visit: <http://ph.one.un.org/response/>

Please contact:

Manila: David Carden, Head, OCHA Philippines
carden@un.org, +63-917-513-9924

Manila: Akiko Yoshida, Humanitarian Affairs Officer, OCHA Philippines
yoshidaa@un.org, +63-917-543-7251

Cagayan de Oro: Muktar Farah, Head of Cotabato Sub-Office, OCHA Philippines
muktar@un.org, +63-917-587-8179

Cagayan de Oro: Leszek Barczak, Reports Officer, OCHA Philippines
barczakl@un.org, +63-927-580-3273

New York: Alf Blikberg, Humanitarian Affairs Officer, OCHA New York
blikberg@un.org, +1-917-388-5543

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