

Monthly Humanitarian Update



Philippines

Issue No. 1, covering the period January - February 2010

Manila, 8 March 2010

The Monthly Humanitarian Update is produced by UN OCHA in the Philippines in collaboration with UN agencies and NGOs. It provides a monthly overview of humanitarian trends and activities in the Philippines, as well as focusing on issues of interest.

Key Points

- El Niño impacts heavily on farmers and agricultural production;
- Typhoon response moves toward recovery and preparedness. Nevertheless, significant funding gaps remain for essential humanitarian assistance, including WASH, education, protection, shelter and non-food items and agriculture;
- Mindanao remains underfunded with approximately 100,000 people displaced in evacuation centres. Attention turns to need for sustainable returns of displaced population;
- CERF underfunded proposal of \$3 million submitted for support to displaced population in Mindanao.

Regional Overview

El Niño

The El Niño weather pattern caused drier conditions throughout the country, rotating power outages and potentially severe implications for dry season farming, which is expected to last until the end of June, according to PAGASA. The El Niño further challenged food security and farmers' main source of livelihoods. More than 300,000 El Niño affected farmers enrolled for validation and entitlement procedures by the Department of Agriculture Regional Field Units for the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) programme. One bag of rice will be provided to registered farming households. The Department of Agriculture reported that 32 provinces in nine regions from Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao incurred production losses due to El Niño. As of 1 March, a total deficit of 298,852 MT of rice 460,848 MT of corn was reported, which was 38 % higher than previous damage estimates for rice (PhP3.68 billion) and almost twice as much in corn (PhP3.27 billion). Rice production for 2009 dropped by 3.31% from 2008 levels, due to the adverse effects of the typhoons.

The Department of Agriculture is monitoring the situation and provides guidance to the National Disaster Coordinating Council (NDCC). The Presidential Task Force on El Niño was reactivated on 25 January 2010 and meets weekly to determine the response. There was no formal request for assistance to date. However, the government expressed a need for the creation of employment opportunities for those that lost livelihoods due to the drought. WFP and FAO are in contact with the government and will continue to monitor the situation, with particular attention toward additional stresses placed upon typhoon affected populations.

Mindanao

The displaced population in evacuation centers is more than 100,000 people, according to the DSWD. These figures do not include a substantial population with host-families that reside outside of these centers. The significant movement of the displaced population between evacuation centres, resettlement sites and places of origin, makes it difficult to determine accurate numbers. The Autonomous Region of Muslim



Mindanao (ARMM) government intends to have the displaced return to their place of origin or resettled by the end of March. The DSWD is conducting a survey of the displaced populations intentions, based on focus group discussions. From consultations with the displaced population, including an 'IDP Forum' organised by Oxfam and KFI and attended by humanitarian agencies and government officials, it appears that many displaced families are not prepared to return to their place of origin, citing security as a paramount concern. Humanitarian agencies continue to support the displaced population in evacuation centres, providing assistance across the eight functional clusters. WFP final general food distribution is underway, with an increasing focus on Food For Work and Food For Training modalities to target assistance at those most in need. However, the humanitarian community will need to address the challenge of how to support a sustainable returns process, supporting displaced populations in their places of return or resettlement.

2009 Typhoon Response

On 26 September 2009, Tropical Storm Ketsana swept across Metro Manila and central Luzon Island causing floods and widespread devastation. According to the NDCC, over 2.5 million people were affected by Tropical Storm Ketsana, with 277 storm related deaths. As of 1 March, 5,402 families were sheltered in 54 evacuation centers. Government agencies responded swiftly to the storm, launching extensive search and rescue operations and releasing emergency relief stocks. However, the extensive damage caused by the floods exhausted capacities of many local and national response agencies. The scale of the emergency escalated when the second weather pattern, Typhoon Parma, caused further flooding in the northern parts of the Philippines on 1 October 2009. Immediate support for the affected population was reflected in the revised Flash Appeal at the end of October 2009, which remains underfunded in essential sectors. Below is an update on the progress of the typhoon response by Cluster. Cluster progress indicates the transition from emergency response to assistance in disaster risk reduction, management and preparedness is underway.

III. Cluster Update

Camp Coordination and Camp Management and Non-Food Items (CCCM/NFI)

Displaced population figures are decreasing, with a total of 5,402 displaced families residing in 54 sites in four regions (National Capital Region [NCR], III, Region IV-A and Cordillera Autonomous Region [CAR]), according to the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM). Many of the displaced families relocated from schools and other evacuation centers into tent cities. The majority of the residual displaced population is unable to return due to destroyed homes or houses located in unsafe areas. Many are awaiting DSWD relocation plans and require humanitarian assistance.

The CCCM/NFI DTM data is collected in displacement sites by DSWD supported by IOM teams. Two reports from the DTM identify key gaps and areas requiring intervention. A DTM Localized Action Workshop was held on 24 February, with key Municipality Social Welfare and Development Office (MSWDO) participants from Angono, Rizal and Santa Cruz, Laguna to assist municipal and provincial analyses of information collected from the DTM and facilitate local government reporting and action. Physical rehabilitation, in addition to WASH-related upgrades of high risk evacuation centers that hosted 598 families (approximately 2,990 individuals), was conducted in five evacuation centers in NCR and Region IV-A. Installation of communication boards in remaining sites was scheduled for 1-5 March. There was continued engagement of local and national government regarding the closure of evacuation centers. A four-day global cluster CCCM training was held in January for 25 MSWDOs from Laguna and Rizal to assist in camp management responsibilities. DSWD through the CCCM/NFI Cluster is revising the DSWD document "Enhanced Guidelines for the Management of Emergency Shelter/ Evacuation Centers" and will engage stakeholders in the process by mid-March.

Management of displacement sites remains the responsibility of the local government units (LGUs). CCCM Cluster members through DSWD and other partners are developing an approach to evacuation center management. As the response scales down, it is important to recognize the continuing need for humanitarian assistance for affected populations, in particular ongoing service delivery in displacement sites, as well as the continued efforts to provide durable solutions. As remaining sites may stay open for considerable time, there are ongoing needs for medium-term solutions prior to permanent relocation. Examples include ensuring evacuation centers sheltering the displaced population meet humanitarian

standards, establishment of transitional sites and further provision of shelter repair kits to displaced families to facilitate return.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

The key humanitarian concern is access to safe water, sanitation facilities and hygiene items in the 36 remaining evacuation centers. Other top priorities include rehabilitation and improvement of drainage, solid waste collection and vector control. Manila Water continues to provide water and sewage to areas in Rizal that are either under their concessionary or have requested response. In Laguna, MWSS desludging has stopped and private contractors are used when available. Laguna Water is providing water to one evacuation center in Binan with ADRA. Save the Children, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation and the Philippines National Red Cross (PNRC) are responding to the need created by closure of evacuation centers and the increase in temporary relocation sites. Handicap International (HI) and Plan International have provided WASH support for 39,905 evacuees in Rizal. In Rizal and Laguna, Oxfam conducts a household sanitation project including household latrines and hygiene promotion training to barangay staff. Merlin provides WASH support to Talim Island. The PNRC provides hygiene promotion training to barangays and some hygiene kit distribution. IOM, as lead for the CCCM Cluster, is managing WASH in the remaining evacuation centers. UNICEF coordinate the WASH Cluster with support from Streams of Knowledge (SoK) and HI, to provide WASH kits and IEC materials to LGUs and other organisations. WASH sub-clusters provide LGUs with training in coordination and SPHERE standards. Activities indicate a general exit from emergency response to assistance in disaster risk reduction, management and preparation.

The typhoon response is scaling down partly due to lack of emergency funds, as well as increased concerns over water shortages caused by the El Niño. Huge gaps are anticipated with the winding down of Manila Water's emergency services and the exit of several key organisations. Temporary relocation sites are reportedly increasing due to municipalities moving fishing communities away from flood-prone areas.

Shelter

A total of 154,982 houses were destroyed and 77,947 houses partially damaged by the 2009 typhoons (*DSWD, January 2010*). The Shelter Cluster provides three types of assistance to typhoon affected families: Distribution of Shelter Kits for houses partially damaged; Transitional shelter kits for temporary shelter that could be improved and used as permanent housing; and permanent housing for families requiring relocation. To date, 7,877 shelter kits were distributed and 4,700 kits are planned for distribution. For transitional shelter, construction of 250 units is on-going, with plans to construct an additional 6,000 transitional shelters. Construction of 250 latrines is on-going. Loans for house construction were provided to 75 families. As of the end of February, 6,179 families were resettled in several relocation sites in Rizal and Laguna.

The magnitude of assistance required and low response to the Flash Appeal has stretched the capacity of the Shelter Cluster to meet the needs, with limited available resources. Some areas were declared as unsafe, preventing families from returning to their place of origin. There is a need to identify suitable resettlement sites, as well as a need for funding for shelter construction.

Health

There is a need to ensure continued access to essential health services (including health promotion, risk communication) of beneficiaries in evacuation centers, relocation areas, and affected communities. A responsive information system is required for timely, accurate health information from disaster-affected areas. There is also a need to strengthen the capacity of communities for health emergency preparedness.

Rehabilitation of primary healthcare facilities in Region IV-A and NCR is underway by WHO, Save the Children and Merlin. WHO will support at least 114 Barangay Health Stations, six Regional Health Units, and six Basic Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Care (BEmONC) facilities, in addition to ongoing support to Amang Rodriguez and Region I Medical Center. Mobile clinics are conducted by Save the Children, IOM, Merlin, Australian Aid International (AAI), and the Philippine National Red Cross (PNRC). Emergency Health Kits were distributed by UNICEF, Plan International, and Save the Children. Health information activities were conducted by Save the Children, Plan International, IOM, PNRC and AAI. WHO is supporting

Department of Health establish a Health Monitoring System in Emergencies, a syndromic surveillance system for communicable and non-communicable diseases that aims to efficiently transmit information from evacuation centers or affected municipalities to trigger prompt response from all levels. Capacity-building activities are conducted by Merlin, AAI and IOM.

Protection

The Participatory Protection Assessment highlighted the following humanitarian needs in December 2009: Increased risks of child abuse and gender-based violence in evacuation centers and relocation sites, family separation; High levels of distress; Coerced return and relocation to areas that are unsafe; Insufficient information and consultation on durable solutions, and; Inadequate attention to individuals with specific needs. Many evacuation centers have closed, yet the majority of displaced have not found durable solutions.

As a result of the assessment, an estimated 200 especially vulnerable individuals were identified for targeted assistance, which is under procurement for distribution. Community meetings were held to identify Quick Impact Projects (QIPS) in five areas in Luzon. Information mechanisms are underway to address the need for more information and consultation with the displaced on issues of relocation. Regular field visits monitor the general protection situation in the evacuation centers. The Protection Cluster, together with sexual gender based violence (SGBV) and Child Protection sub-clusters, advocate for the incorporation of more protection focused and gender-sensitive approaches in legislative bills and implementation rules. Referral pathways were established that join SGBV and Child Protection approaches.

The main issue is relocation of the displaced in the evacuation centers, which should be to areas pre-assessed for suitability. It is also important to ensure that the displaced population are informed of the selection criteria for relocation. The Protection Cluster is concerned about the condition of tents that were used as shelter for the past six months and are affected by wear and tear, while relocation is not expected to take place for several months. Some displaced expressed concerns regarding access to food, as most relief agencies no longer distribute food. The transition into early-recovery together with a support focus on self reliance is underway.

Child Protection

Impacts on psychosocial well-being were evident in relocation sites, with increased depression and anger reported. Increased vulnerabilities to trafficking, violence (including gender based violence and domestic violence), sexual abuse and exploitation in affected areas including relocation sites and evacuation centers. To date, 180 Child Friendly Spaces established in more than 81 flood-affected barangays in Metro Manila and the Provinces of Laguna, Rizal, Bulacan, Benguet, Cavite, Pangasinan and Mountain Province benefiting more than 41,799 children through psychosocial activities conducted by 3,228 community volunteers. With the support of UNICEF, CWC hired six Social Workers to follow-up on reported child abuse cases and address issues of separated and unaccompanied children. UNICEF provided technical support on the existing referral pathway for reporting on child abuse cases to mandated bodies, including the DSWD and PNP-Children's and Women Desk for intervention. Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials shared in the Child Protection Working Group on referral pathways for child sexual abuse cases, children with disabilities and Code of Conduct. In past month, one training session on Child Protection in Emergencies was conducted in Quezon City for 30 Children. Rapid registration continues of 104 unaccompanied and separated children.

Strategies to scale-up Child Protection activities are under development to reach additional affected areas including relocation sites. Technical capacities of local organizations with limited disaster response experience and lack of supplies and resources were also key constraints. Training, capacity building and distribution of supplies to support psychosocial support and other Child Protection activities are underway. There is a need to develop alternative care arrangements for separated/unaccompanied children, in addition to the need for clear data and assessment of relocation sites. There are difficulties of access and lack of partners in the Northern and Central Luzon areas, which forms a major constraint. UNICEF will continue engagement of organizations to expand Child Protection activities in the affected areas.

Education

Schools used as evacuation centers decreased from 44 to eight schools, sheltering 315 families or 1,550 individuals (Disaster Response, Operations, Monitoring and Information Center, DSWD Report as of 26 February). The latest update from the Department of Education Division of Laguna indicated that 127 (47%) of the 270 elementary and secondary schools were affected by the disaster in terms of damages/loss of learning materials and loss of school supplies. There were also reports of increased number of dropouts among children affected by the disaster especially in Rizal and Laguna. Data from the Department of Education Rizal Division indicated a dropout rate of 0.34% of elementary enrolments of 152,722. More boys (326) dropped out than girls (182), as they appear to be more vulnerable to gang influence and pressure of child labour that were the commonly cited factors for failing to go back to school brought on by the typhoon/flooding. In Laguna, the Department of Education reported a dropout rate of 0.76% of total enrolment in elementary school and 7.5% in secondary school. To minimize the number of school dropouts, the Department of Education plans to conduct of home visitation, nutrition/school feeding programmes, consultation with parents, 'back to school' campaigns and resource leveraging for school supplies.

To date, the Education Cluster provided 89,842 essential learning packages for students, 3,073 teaching packs for teachers, 41 library sets/boxes, 2,623 individual packs for ECCD children, 136 ECCD kits for day care centers/ preschools, 22,212 food packs for individual children, 106 clean up sets, 30,179 hygiene kits for elementary and secondary schools, 4,995 pieces of jerry cans and 4,995 bottles of hyposol. Save the Children provided school infrastructure rehabilitation and construction to 39 sites in Laguna and NCR to benefit 88,101 children. Plan International conducted the training on Disaster Risk Response and Climate Change and Orientation on Early Childhood Education in Emergencies. UNICEF distributed 630 Disaster Risk Reduction Manuals for distribution to schools. Learning packages (100-Bk Library sets) and school supplies will be delivered to the most disadvantaged among the affected schools and children. Intercluster intervention for children of poor households whose livelihoods were seriously affected by the disaster is required, as it led to increased dropout/chronic absenteeism among their school-going children. Replacement of library books and school supplies washed out by the floods remains a gap.

Food Security

Humanitarian needs related to the typhoons continue to be pressing; however there is progress into early recovery activities for WFP and partners. Since October 2009, WFP in collaboration with the DSWD distributed 19,000 MT of mixed food commodities (rice, high energy biscuits, canned fish, oil, and since January corn-soya blend), which reached over one million typhoon-affected people in six regions of Luzon – Regions I, II, III, IV-A, CAR, and NCR. CFSI and ADRA assist WFP's programmes in Regions III and IV-A respectively. In 2010, the focus of WFP's assistance shifted to support early recovery activities, such as food-for-work (FFW) projects, and continues to provide general food distributions to the most vulnerable people affected by the typhoons at decreasing levels. From January to February, WFP and DSWD completed FFW orientations across the affected regions. Early indications suggest that communities are eager to participate in FFW and projects are likely to include repairing damaged houses, de-clogging irrigation canals and re-building access roads, which is planned to start from March.

WFP's supplementary feeding programme (SFP) reached 62,000 children aged 6-23 months in Laguna and Rizal provinces and was ongoing in February 2010. The programme works in collaboration with the Philippines National Nutrition Council (NNC) and is scheduled until June 2010. SFP aims to improve the nutritional status of the targeted group in Region IV-A that were heavily affected by the typhoon and floods. WFP is planning a Micro-Nutrient Powder programme and may pilot a cash-for-work programme. Regular field monitoring activities are ongoing throughout operational regions jointly with DSWD and partners. Monitoring visits improve coordination, facilitate food distribution, reporting and strengthen beneficiary verification processes.

Logistics

Following the raising of alert levels for Mayon Volcano, the Logistics Cluster transported 53 MT of food and non-food relief items on behalf of DSWD to Legazpi City. The Logistics Cluster also transported and erected a mobile warehouse at Julhasan Arasain Naval Base, Legazpi City. The three Logistics Cluster mobile warehouses erected for the flood response were dismantled and donated to DSWD. Since the Logistics

Cluster was activated, four generators were transported, converted and donated to a number of hospitals and medical centre in the Philippines for the provision of back-up power. An assessment is underway for the repair of a 450 KVA generator at the Region I Medical Centre in Dagupan. The Logistics Cluster is updating the Philippines inter-agency Logistics Capacity Assessment (LCA) in preparation for future emergencies.

Agriculture

The damages and immediate losses resulting from typhoons Ketsana and Parma was valued at US\$ 80.8 million for standing crops, while damages and losses in livestock/poultry, fisheries and forestry amounted to \$527.32 million. About 480,000 farmers from the seven affected regions of Luzon suffered tremendous losses from the floods and heavy rains. Rice crops were worst affected during the typhoons (87%) covering about 580,928 hectares that could potentially produce an estimated volume of 1.25 million metric tons. The total needs in the Agriculture Sector resulting from the floods involved some \$34.47 million, 83.5% of which would be required for the recovery of the sector.

For immediate recovery, the highest priority needs of disaster affected farmers include emergency supply of agricultural inputs (seeds, planting materials and fertilizers), provision of animals (piglets, goats, ducks and native chicks), provision of fishery inputs (fingerlings/breeders, gears and feeds) and repair of damaged small-scale irrigation. Urgent assistance is required to reduce the disaster affected families continue to suffer from economic deprivation and indebtedness from previous farming activities. The recent WFP/VAM Emergency Food Security Assessment (EFSA) reported that affected farm families were resorting to harsh coping strategies. Significant asset loss was reported through the sale of agricultural assets and land to meet the affected families' food requirements. Other coping strategies included out-migration, taking children out of school and adjustments in consumption patterns such as eating less preferred food, more loans, reducing meal size or number of meals, etc. The situation would likely hit livelihoods harder if not addressed urgently.

The FAO, Department of Agriculture and partners continue to boost efforts on the emergency response through strengthening the cluster as well as inter-cluster coordination. FAO proposed two projects to address the immediate recovery needs: Assistance and technical support for the restoration of food security in flood-affected Region IV-A (Calabarzon); Immediate agricultural assistance to flood affected farming communities in Region I and Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) and support to the agriculture emergency and rehabilitation coordination, which is received commitment from Belgium. Two other proposals for emergency relief await consideration from the Government of Japan and the FAO Headquarters while another aims to strengthen the capacities for disaster preparedness, mitigation and response in the most typhoon-prone region of the Philippines, the Bicol Region. Première Urgence also completed concept papers pending approval by donors. The area of proposed intervention will be in the Municipalities of Itogon, Tublay, La Trinidad and Kapangan in Province of Benguet, CAR. Support from donors to provide immediate assistance of seeds and fertilizers to affected farmers is urgently required.

Early Recovery

Several Public Employment Services Office (PESO) units lost office equipment and data-base systems to the floods. The losses impaired the PESO units' employment facilitation functions at a time when emergency and temporary employment creation and job matching was critical. Among the identified recovery needs were the following: Computer units for flood-affected PESO units; Emergency jobs for flood victims in several areas; Rebuilding homes; Capacity development on disaster-risk reduction/management for flood-affected LGUs. To support the immediate recovery needs and resumption of PESO services, ILO allocated funds for the re-acquisition of new computer units. This component restored the employment facilitation functions of 12 selected PESO units. ILO also implemented an emergency employment project in the NCR, Laguna and Rizal, which provided jobs to 623 Ketsana and Parma affected people. Beneficiaries included 250 women, or 40% of the total number employed. WFP and DSWD, in consultation with affected communities, are in the initial stages of rebuilding household assets through the Food-for-Work programme. UNDP continues to conduct consultations with flood-affected LGUs, the League of Cities, and CIDA on a proposed Integrated Disaster Risk Management Project. Première Urgence conducted livelihood restoration for farmers in Barangay Pasdong, Atok Municipality, Benguet Province in the Cordillera Autonomous

Region. It assisted 100 affected households get cash income from labour intensive works. It also conducted a DRR/DRM awareness campaign that benefitted 400 people.

IV. Funding Update

Flash Appeal

Immediate support for the typhoon affected population was reflected in the revised Flash Appeal at the end of October 2009, which remains 61% underfunded. Agriculture (27%), Health (28%), Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (29%) and Food (56% funded) are partially funded. Key sectors including Education (4%), Protection (8%) and Shelter and Non-Food Items (10%) received limited funding to date.

The highest contributors to the Philippines typhoon response to date include the United States of America (23.2% of total contributions), the European Commission (ECHO) (13.4%), the CERF (12%), private donations (10.5%), Australia (8%) and Japan (8%).

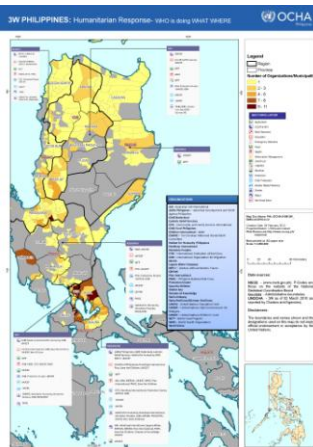
CERF Underfunded Emergency

In January 2010, the Philippines was selected for the allocation of US\$ 3 million from the underfunded window of the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), which prioritized severely underfunded projects that would provide an immediate impact to improve continued humanitarian needs for the displaced population in the provinces of Maquindanao, Sultan Kudarat and North Cotabato. The proposals are under-consideration by the CERF Secretariat and the Inter Agency Standing Committee (IASC).

V. Upcoming Events

- 9 March: GBV Sub-Cluster meeting, 10:00am in UNFPA Office, Manila
- 10 March: Humanitarian Country Team meeting, 14:00pm in UNICEF Meeting Room, Manila.
- 10 March: Protection Cluster meeting, TBC in Manila.
- 18 March: Health Cluster Planning Workshop, 8am-5pm at WHO Western Pacific Regional Office.
- Every Tuesday: Food Security Coordination Meeting, 10:00am in WFP, Manila.

VI. Information Management



OCHA Philippines put in place supporting structures for reporting on response activities and produces inter-cluster reports and maps, as well as maps in support of intra-cluster coordination on a regular basis. The latest update of the 3W ('who, what and where'), as of 1 March, is available on the Humanitarian Response in the Philippines website <http://www.un.org.ph/response>.

The website, which continues to be a vital part of the coordination structure, is maintained and updated regularly by the clusters and OCHA continues to give support to further development and improvements. Other products are maps of Evacuation Camps and population in collaboration with IOM and damaged health facilities in collaboration with the Health cluster among others.

Information management resources were also extended to the sub-office in Cotabato, Mindanao, to strengthen information management systems for the monitoring of displacement and humanitarian support.

The growing library of datasets, which is being structured and datasets verified, is maintained and strengthened as a strong resource base for the eventuality of future disasters.

Contact Information

OCHA Philippines, Email: ochaphilippines@un.org

Visit the Humanitarian Response in the Philippines website at <http://www.un.org.ph/response>

