



PHILIPPINES – TROPICAL STORM

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- Tropical Storm Washi, known locally as Sendong, made landfall in the southern Philippines on December 16, 2011, resulting in flash floods and landslides, particularly affecting northern Mindanao island. To date, the storm and associated flooding have affected more than 724,700 people across 13 provinces. As of January 4, the death toll had reached 1,257, with 98 people identified as missing, according to the Government of the Philippines (GPH) National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC). More than half of all confirmed deaths occurred in Cagayan de Oro and Iligan cities in Northern Mindanao Region.
- Health workers have reported an increased number of suspected cases of leptospirosis—a bacterial infection caused by exposure to contaminated water—in evacuation centers in affected areas. Relief agencies and local health officials have increased disease surveillance activities and highlight the need for decongestion of the most crowded of sites.
- The number of people residing in temporary evacuation centers continues to decrease as families return to their areas of origin or seek shelter with relatives, according to the NDRRMC. As of January 4, nearly 37,300 people were staying in 54 evacuation centers—30 percent fewer than the number of individuals in centers on December 29.
- According to the U.N., all individuals in evacuation centers in Cagayan de Oro and Iligan cities are receiving food, health, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) assistance, as well as emergency relief supplies. Relief agencies are providing similar support to affected individuals with host families and in make-shift shelters in affected areas.
- As of January 4, USAID’s Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA) had provided nearly \$1.7 million in assistance for storm-affected populations in the Philippines, including nearly \$1.2 million in shelter assistance, more than \$309,000 for WASH activities, and \$200,000 for logistics support to aid the delivery of relief to flooded communities. USAID/OFDA also deployed its Principal Regional Advisor for East Asia and the Pacific to the Philippines to conduct damage and needs assessments in affected areas, in coordination with the U.S. Embassy in Manila, USAID/Philippines, the NDRRMC, and relief agencies.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE		Source
Total Number of Tropical Storm-Related Deaths	1,257	NDRRMC – January 4, 2012
Total Number of Individuals Missing	98	NDRRMC – January 4, 2012
Total Number of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Evacuation Centers	37,298	NDRRMC – January 4, 2012
Houses Damaged or Destroyed	48,499	NDRRMC – January 4, 2012

HUMANITARIAN FUNDING PROVIDED IN FY 2012 ¹	
USAID/OFDA Assistance to the Philippines	\$ 1,698,908
Total USAID/OFDA Assistance to the Philippines	\$ 1,698,908

Context

- From December 16 to 18, Tropical Storm Washi passed over the southern Philippines, resulting in flash flooding and landslides, particularly affecting northern Mindanao. Rains associated with a subsequent low pressure system exacerbated flooding in affected areas.
- On December 20, the President of the Philippines, Benigno Aquino, declared a state of national calamity in Central Visayas, Zamboanga Peninsula, Northern Mindanao, Davao, and Caraga regions due to flash floods and landslides associated with Tropical Storm Washi.
- On December 19, U.S. Ambassador Harry K. Thomas, Jr., declared a disaster due to the effects of the storm. In response, USAID/OFDA provided an initial \$100,000 through USAID/Philippines to Catholic Relief Services (CRS)

¹ Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds.

for the distribution of emergency WASH supplies, including water purification tablets, hygiene kits, and water containers, to the most affected individuals in Mindanao.

- On December 22, the U.N. and the GPH initiated the cluster system—a mechanism to improve collaboration between the U.N., relief agencies, and donors during disasters—in Cagayan de Oro to ensure a coordinated response to the storm.

Logistics

- Flooding related to Tropical Storm Washi and a recent low pressure system damaged roads, bridges, and other infrastructure, impeding delivery of assistance to some areas, particularly those with standing water. According to the NDRRMC, the GPH has prioritized the repair of several bridges to expedite delivery of humanitarian assistance. In addition, as of January 4, the electrical supply had been restored to 98 percent of Cagayan de Oro and Iligan cities.
- USAID/OFDA is providing logistical support to the GPH and the humanitarian community through the U.N. World Food Program (WFP), which leads the Logistics Cluster—the coordinating body for logistics support and activities. With \$200,000 in USAID/OFDA assistance, WFP will identify and address logistics deficiencies, coordinate logistics activities, and augment the storage capacity in flood-affected areas, allowing for the uninterrupted delivery of emergency supplies to the most affected populations in the cities of Cagayan de Oro and Iligan.
- WFP and relief agencies are also conducting feasibility assessments for possible food-for-work and cash-for-work activities to repair damaged roads and water supply systems.

WASH

- The NDRRMC reports that the water supply has been restored to some areas in Cagayan de Oro; however, an estimated 63 percent of the population in western parts of the city will remain without piped water until January 20 or later, according to the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).
- The WASH Cluster has assigned agencies to provide WASH support in all existing evacuation centers. Various agencies, including the GPH and the Philippines National Red Cross Society, are working to reestablish the water supply, as well as distribute water, in areas that sustained damage to water infrastructure. According to the U.N., local fire brigades have received training in the chlorination of trucked water and are utilizing 23 trucks to deliver water to evacuation centers and other affected areas.
- With more than \$300,000 in assistance from USAID/OFDA, CRS is providing safe drinking water and essential WASH supplies, such as hygiene kits and water containers, to more than 11,000 people in severely affected areas.
- In addition, the U.S. Department of Defense's Marine Forces Pacific is working with the Armed Forces of the Philippines to bring in three high-capacity water purification units capable of processing 13,000 gallons of water daily.

Health

- Since an emergency disease surveillance system was established in the Philippines on December 21, approximately 260 suspected cases of leptospirosis have been reported and referred to health workers for further evaluation. The GPH Department of Health (DoH) has declared leptospirosis outbreak due to the unusual increase in reported cases.
- The DoH and city health departments continue to deploy medical teams to all evacuation centers in affected areas. In response to increased reports of leptospirosis in recent days, the U.N. World Health Organization (WHO) is also providing rapid diagnostic test kits to city health departments in Region X to aid mobile medical teams in screening possible cases.

Shelter and Livelihoods

- The number of individuals in evacuation centers continues to decrease as families return home or move in with host families. However, an unknown number of individuals remain unable to go back to their areas of origin due to the GPH ban on returns to flood-prone communities near the river in Cagayan de Oro and Iligan cities. The Shelter Cluster—the coordinating body for shelter activities in the Philippines—and GPH agencies are currently working to identify the number of families that require resettlement, the number of shelter units and amount of land required for relocations, and options for housing.
- As a result, the GPH is prioritizing relocation and shelter assistance for vulnerable families with damaged houses in the most-affected areas, namely Cagayan de Oro and Iligan cities.
- USAID/OFDA is supporting the construction of transitional shelters for more than 4,000 people through CRS. The program will focus on vulnerable families in Cagayan de Oro and Iligan cities whose homes were destroyed by Tropical Storm Washi and associated floods.

- USAID/OFDA is also providing emergency shelter kits for more than 1,100 displaced families, or nearly 6,000 people, through the International Organization for Migration (IOM). The kits—containing plastic sheeting, sleeping mats, and other household items—will help individuals repair damaged houses, enabling their families to depart temporary evacuation centers and safely return to their homes. The \$600,000 in USAID/OFDA funding to IOM also supports temporary employment for flood-affected people through cash-for-work activities to improve evacuation centers, clean up debris, and rehabilitate storm-damaged infrastructure in affected communities.
- According to WFP, a planned GPH cash grant program will additionally support community rehabilitation projects, including the clearing of roads, rehabilitation of waterways and public buildings, coastal clean-up activities, and local food production projects.

International Assistance

- The U.N. has released \$3 million from its Central Emergency Response Fund for programs to benefit families affected by Tropical Storm Washi.
- The Asian Development Bank has also provided \$3 million through the Asia Pacific Disaster Response Fund to provide clean water, health services, medical supplies, and other emergency relief commodities to affected households.

USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO THE PHILIPPINES PROVIDED IN FY 2012¹

Implementing Partner	Activity	Location	Amount
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE²			
CRS	WASH	Mindanao	\$100,000
CRS	WASH, Shelter and Settlements	Mindanao	\$798,908
IOM	Shelter and Settlements	Mindanao	\$600,000
WFP	Logistics and Relief Commodities	Mindanao	\$200,000
TOTAL USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE			\$1,698,908
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO PHILIPPINES IN FY 2012			\$1,698,908

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² USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual committed amounts as of January 4, 2012.

PUBLIC DONATION INFORMATION

- The most effective way people can assist relief efforts is by making cash contributions to humanitarian organizations that are conducting relief operations. A list of humanitarian organizations that are accepting cash donations for response efforts in the Philippines can be found at www.interaction.org.
- USAID encourages cash donations because they allow aid professionals to procure the exact items needed (often in the affected region); reduce the burden on scarce resources (such as transportation routes, staff time, and warehouse space); can be transferred very quickly and without transportation costs; support the economy of the disaster-stricken region; and ensure culturally, dietary, and environmentally appropriate assistance.
- More information can be found at:
The Center for International Disaster Information: www.cidi.org or +1.202.821.1999.
Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at www.reliefweb.int.