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**BUREAU FOR DEMOCRACY, CONFLICT, AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE (DCHA)
OFFICE OF U.S. FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (OFDA)**

Philippines – Tropical Storms

Fact Sheet #10, Fiscal Year (FY) 2010

November 20, 2009

Note: The last fact sheet was dated November 12, 2009.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- On November 13, a team from the U.N. World Health Organization (WHO)-coordinated Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network (GOARN)—a pool of experts on permanent standby to identify, respond, and assist with disease outbreaks around the world—presented results from a three-week technical assessment of leptospirosis.
- The four-person GOARN team arrived in Manila on October 27, at the request of the Government of the Republic of the Philippines (GRP), following an increasing incidence of leptospirosis—a bacterial infection typically caused by exposure to water contaminated with urine of infected animals—in the weeks following Tropical Storm Ketsana (Ondoy) and Typhoon Parma (Pepeng).
- Results from the GOARN assessment confirm WHO reports that the number of reported leptospirosis cases has significantly decreased in recent weeks. However, the results indicate that the recent outbreak significantly strained local hospitals and medical staff.
- On November 18, the U.N. issued a revised flash appeal requesting more than \$143.7 million to provide relief and recovery assistance to 4.2 million affected individuals in the Philippines. The revised appeal marks a \$69.7 million increase from the October appeal due to the effects of typhoons Parma and Mirinae (Santi).
- USAID/OFDA has committed \$100,000 to WHO through the revised flash appeal to strengthen the disease surveillance system, which is designed to improve response capacity to outbreak-prone diseases in the Philippines.
- USAID/OFDA has also provided \$500,000 in additional funding to support health activities in flood-affected areas through Save the Children/U.S. (SC/US). With the funding, SC/US plans to establish four mobile health clinics in Santa Rosa and Calamba municipalities in Laguna Province, Region IV-A, targeting nearly 120,500 beneficiaries.
- In addition to providing emergency health services, the clinic staff plan to conduct health education programs, as well as track and record suspected cases of acute watery diarrhea, dengue, leptospirosis, and other epidemic-prone diseases.
- The new USAID/OFDA funding increases the total amount of U.S. Government (USG) assistance in the Philippines to nearly \$16.4 million, including nearly \$6 million through USAID/OFDA to support health; water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH); economic recovery; humanitarian coordination and information management, as well as logistics support and the provision and distribution of emergency relief supplies.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE	SOURCE	
Total Affected Population	10,181,673	NDCC ¹ – November 18, 2009
Population Requiring Assistance	4,200,000	U.N. – November 16, 2009
Dead	961	NDCC – November 18, 2009
Injured	756	NDCC – November 18, 2009
Missing	90	NDCC – November 18, 2009
Population Currently Displaced in Evacuation Centers	135,106	NDCC – November 18, 2009
Damaged or Destroyed Houses	307,088	NDCC – November 18, 2009

FY 2010 HUMANITARIAN FUNDING PROVIDED TO DATE

USAID/OFDA Assistance for Philippines Tropical Storms.....\$5,959,450
USAID/FFP² Assistance for Philippines Tropical Storms.....\$1,200,000
DoD³ Assistance for Philippines Tropical Storms\$827,581
USDA⁴ Assistance for Philippines Tropical Storms\$8,400,000
Total USAID, DoD, and USDA Humanitarian Assistance for Philippines Tropical Storms\$16,387,031⁵

¹ GRP National Disaster Coordinating Council (NDCC)

² USAID's Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP)

³ U.S. Department of Defense (DoD)

⁴ U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)

⁵ This amount does not include \$404,496 in USAID/OFDA FY 2009 funding for Philippines tropical storms or \$3.2 million of the \$5.2 million in USG assistance announced for the Philippines on November 12, which USAID/Philippines is reprogramming from existing bilateral aid programs.

CURRENT SITUATION

- Areas in northern Luzon remain inaccessible due to damaged bridges and landslides. On November 19, the U.N. Logistics Cluster reported that the GRP Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) has prioritized the delivery of emergency relief supplies to areas in Kalinga, Apayao, and Mountain provinces, Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR).
- According to the revised U.N. flash appeal, recent GRP, U.N., and non-governmental organization (NGO) assessments indicate that an estimated 4.2 million people residing in 364 municipalities in regions I, II, III, IV-A, V, VI, CAR, and National Capital Region (NCR) require relief or recovery assistance.
- On November 19, the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) reported that more than 135,000 people resided in 458 evacuation centers throughout NCR and Region IV-A.
- As of November 16, more than 382,500 individuals continued to reside in flooded areas throughout 125 municipalities in NCR and regions III, IV-A, IV-B, and V.
- According to the U.N. revised appeal, the GRP plans to relocate approximately 350,000 displaced people that previously resided along riverbeds and flood-prone areas throughout NCR. As of November 16, the GRP had not identified relocation sites for the individuals.
- Humanitarian agencies remain concerned about the potential spread of waterborne diseases and other illnesses due to stagnant floodwaters, which are likely to remain in areas around Lake Laguna and some areas of Metro Manila for an additional three to four months.

Health

- As of November 16, WHO reported that leptospirosis had infected 3,382 individuals nationwide and killed an estimated 249 people. According to OCHA, the GRP and the humanitarian community had distributed leptospirosis prophylaxis to nearly 338,000 individuals in NCR and Region IV-A as of November 16.
- According to the GOARN team, interviews with clinicians indicated that at the height of the outbreak, many hospitals lacked functioning equipment—including intravenous penicillin and life-saving dialysis machines. In addition, many hospitals lacked a sufficient number of beds and medical staff.
- The GOARN team reported that the high fatality rate associated with the disease resulted from individuals seeking or receiving medical treatment late. According to the assessment results, the delayed treatment often resulted from patients' inability to distinguish between early symptoms of leptospirosis and ordinary flu symptoms. In some cases, the delayed treatment resulted from a time lag between diagnosis and treatment of patients referred to other medical facilities.
- In other instances, the GOARN team reported that patients departed hospitals against medical advice due to concerns about cost, and only returned following a deterioration in conditions—which is often too late for successful treatment of the disease. The GOARN team noted that many individuals interviewed during the assessment were unaware that free treatment was available.
- The GOARN lab continues to test leptospirosis samples from infected patients in the Philippines to determine the particular disease strain. According to the GOARN staff, the testing requires significant time and effort due to the fragility of the samples and the complicated nature of the disease.
- To improve clinical management of leptospirosis in the future, the GOARN team recommended improved access to dialysis machines; refresher training for hospital staff prior to the next typhoon season; development of a network of international experts who can provide advice to clinicians; the provision of free care without a lab diagnosis; establishment of a central bed management system to monitor bed capacity and help direct referrals; and adaptation of existing guidelines and best practices.
- The GOARN team continues to assist with the development of a post-disaster surveillance system and an outbreak communications strategy.

WASH

- In addition to leptospirosis, the spread of waterborne diseases, such as cholera and typhoid fever, pose a significant health concern in flood-affected areas. According to WHO, population displacement, overcrowding, poor access to safe drinking water, inadequate sanitation and hygiene facilities, and unsafe practices in handling and preparing food are all associated with the spread of waterborne diseases.
- The revised flash appeal plans to provide WASH assistance, including safe drinking water and adequate sanitation and hygiene facilities, to nearly 1.2 million beneficiaries.
- With a recently provided USAID/OFDA grant, Oxfam-Great Britain (Oxfam/GB) is implementing a five-month WASH program, which includes evacuation center clean-up, promotion of improved hygiene practices, provision of household water treatment, distribution of water vouchers, and bathing shelter and latrine construction for approximately 38,000 flood-affected individuals. USAID/OFDA has also provided \$300,000 to support WASH interventions through SC/US.

Agriculture and Food Security

- On October 26, USDA announced the provision of approximately 7,680 metric tons (MT) of food assistance, valued at \$8.4 million, through the Food for Progress program in cooperation with the GRP Department of Agriculture. In FY 2010 to date, USAID/FFP has provided 720 MT of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food assistance, valued at \$1.2 million, to the U.N. World Food Program (WFP).
- Through the revised appeal, WFP plans to provide food assistance to 1.5 million people during November, with a reduced caseload of 1 million individuals during December and 750,000 people per month between January and March 2010. In coordination with the National Nutrition Council, WFP also plans to implement a supplementary feeding program in January 2010 targeting 50,000 vulnerable children between 6 and 24 months of age.
- In northern Luzon, the country's main agricultural region, flooding and landslides resulting from Typhoon Parma significantly affected the main planting season. According to the U.N., preliminary results from a U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization assessment indicates that the storm destroyed the crops and agricultural assets of between 100,000 and 120,000 farming households, representing 500,000 people, in regions I, II, and III.

Logistics and Relief Commodities

- The U.N. Logistics Cluster has established hubs, including mobile warehouses, in Laoag and San Fernando cities in Region I and Baguio city in CAR.
- One U.N. Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) helicopter is transporting relief supplies from the hub at Wallace Airbase in San Fernando city to areas in Benguet and Mountain provinces, CAR Region. The second UNHAS helicopter, based in Laoag city, is transporting relief supplies to Calanasan and Apayao provinces.
- As of November 19, the UNHAS helicopter operation had completed 331 flight rotations, delivering approximately 300 MT of food and nearly 14 MT of non-food items, as well as assessment and medical teams.
- USAID/OFDA has contributed \$1 million to WFP for logistical support, which has helped the GRP and humanitarian agencies access more than 2 million people with emergency relief supplies.

USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

- On September 28, U.S. Ambassador Kristie A. Kenney issued a disaster declaration due to the effects of Tropical Storm Ketsana. In response, USAID/OFDA provided an immediate \$100,000 through USAID/Philippines to the Philippine National Red Cross (PNRC) for the local purchase and delivery of emergency relief supplies. Funding also supported cleanup efforts focused in the Manila metropolitan area.
- In the weeks following the tropical storms, USAID/OFDA deployed a regional advisor, military liaison officer, and WASH advisor to coordinate the USG response. On October 26, a USAID/OFDA regional advisor redeployed to the Philippines to assess flood impacts, facilitate USG assistance, and monitor the impact of Typhoon Mirinae, in coordination with the U.S. Embassy in Manila and USAID/Philippines. A USAID/OFDA information officer deployed to the Philippines on October 31.
- On October 2 and 13, in coordination with the U.S. Embassy in Manila and GRP authorities, USAID/OFDA arranged two charter flights that delivered emergency relief items, including 340 rolls of plastic sheeting for temporary shelter, 50,060 bars of soap, 23,424 hygiene kits, and 23,734 ten-liter collapsible water containers. PNRC received the commodities from the October 2 flight for delivery to 20,000 flood-affected individuals, and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) received the October 13 items for distribution to approximately 24,000 families.
- On November 12, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary R. Clinton announced USG plans to provide an additional \$5.2 million in disaster relief and recovery assistance to the Philippines.
- To date in FY 2010, USAID/OFDA has provided or committed nearly \$6 million to assist individuals affected by tropical storms in the Philippines. The assistance includes the procurement, transport, and distribution of emergency relief commodities; funding for economic recovery and humanitarian coordination; logistical support; WASH and health programs; and non-grant funding for airlifts of relief items and administrative costs.
- In FY 2010 to date, USAID/FFP has provided 720 MT of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food assistance, valued at \$1.2 million, to WFP.
- On October 26, USDA announced the provision of approximately 7,680 MT of food assistance, valued at \$8.4 million, through the Food for Progress program in cooperation with the GRP Department of Agriculture.
- In the early stages of the disaster response, DoD Pacific Command provided equipment, transport, and logistics support, including 10 helicopters and 6 Zodiac boats for search-and-rescue efforts, to aid storm-affected individuals.
- From October 2 to 13, DoD assistance included a delivery flight of emergency relief supplies to Batanes Province, northern Philippines, and transport of food and relief supplies to affected areas by road and helicopter. DoD medical teams screened 8,850 medical patients and 357 dental patients; DoD flights transported 262 passengers and moved 114,880 pounds of cargo; and DoD engineers conducted 12 assessments, removed 1,385 cubic meters of debris, and cleared 2,650 meters of road.

FY 2010 USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE FOR PHILIPPINES TROPICAL STORMS

<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE¹			
Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA)	Emergency Relief Supplies, Logistics and Transportation	Metro Manila and Laguna Province	\$395,014
American Red Cross Society (AmRC)	Emergency Relief Supplies, Logistics and Transportation	Metro Manila; Rizal, Laguna, and Zambales Provinces; Marikina, Taguig, and Quezon Cities	\$500,000
Catholic Relief Services (CRS)	Emergency Relief Supplies, Logistics and Transportation	Bulacan and Rizal Provinces	\$248,081
IOM	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Luzon Island	\$150,000
Oxfam/GB	Economics and Market Systems, Emergency Relief Supplies, Logistics and Transportation, WASH	Laguna and Rizal Provinces	\$2,000,000
SC/US	WASH, Health	Caloocan, Muntinlupa, Laguna, and Taguig Cities; Santa Rosa and Calamba Cities, Laguna Province	\$800,000
Samaritan's Purse	Emergency Relief Supplies, Logistics and Transportation	Laguna Province	\$222,953
USAID/OFDA Airlift	Emergency Relief Supplies, Logistics and Transportation	Laguna and Pangasinan Provinces; Muntinlupa City	\$361,931
WFP	Emergency Relief Supplies, Logistics and Transportation	Luzon Island	\$1,000,000
WHO	Health	Luzon Island	\$100,000
World Vision/U.S.	Emergency Relief Supplies, Logistics and Transportation	Luzon Island	\$175,947
	Administrative Costs	Luzon Island	\$5,524
TOTAL USAID/OFDA			\$5,959,450
USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE²			
WFP	720 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Affected Areas	\$1,200,000
TOTAL USAID/FFP			\$1,200,000
DOD ASSISTANCE			
DoD	Emergency Relief Supplies, Logistics and Transportation	Luzon Island	\$827,581
TOTAL DOD			\$827,581
USDA ASSISTANCE			
GRP	7,680 MT of Food for Progress Assistance	Affected Areas	\$8,400,000

TOTAL USDA	\$8,400,000
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO THE PHILIPPINES IN FY 2010	\$16,387,031

¹USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of November 20, 2009.

²Estimated value of food assistance.

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. Information on organizations responding to the humanitarian situation in the Philippines is available at www.reliefweb.int.
- 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, warehouse space, etc); 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:
 - USAID: www.usaid.gov – Keyword: Donations
 - The Center for International Disaster Information: www.cidi.org or (703) 276-1914
 - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at www.reliefweb.int