



This report is produced by OCHA in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It was issued by OCHA Philippines. It covers the period from 10 to 12 August 2013. The next report will be issued on or around 15 August.

Highlights

- Typhoon Utor (locally known as Labuyo) made landfall over Aurora province in the early morning of 12 August with a Category 3 status.
- Initial reports indicate power outages, communication issues and blocked roads in the most affected areas.
- The Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) in the Philippines has offered humanitarian support to the Government, if required.



Situation Overview

A depression reported on Friday 9 August approaching the Philippines moved in to tropical storm category by Saturday and attained typhoon status by the time it made landfall over Aurora province at 4 a.m. on Monday 12 August 2013.

Typhoon Utor (locally known as Labuyo) crossed northern Luzon as a Category 3 typhoon and also affected the Bicol region, northern Samar and the eastern coast Luzon, including Polillo Island. As it crossed northern Luzon, the typhoon weakened to a Category 2, exited Philippine landmass by Monday afternoon and is expected to leave the Philippine Area of Responsibility by Tuesday morning.

The area along the path of the typhoon is historically prone to destructive weather patterns and there is a high level of community preparedness with government focus on building resilience among the communities.

Areas that experienced a Storm Signal 3 (winds of 100 – 185 kph) level are: Quirino Nueva Vizcaya, Ifugao, Mt. Province, Ilocos Sur, Benguet, La Union and Pangasinan. Early Office of Civil Defence (OCD) reports indicate flooding in Casiguran, Aurora province, the landfall area. OCD reports also indicate landslides in the mountainous areas of Ifugao and Benguet with road blocks and electricity outages in areas in Aurora province.

According to local media reports there is 80 per cent infrastructure damage in Casiguran town, with electricity affected and roads rendered impassable due to toppled trees blocking access.

The most likely impact includes damage to agriculture; trees uprooted; structural damage including housing; and communication services.

There are reports of 20 fishermen missing in the Bicol region, with one death reported in Benguet province.

Initial reports from OCD indicate 416 individuals in 17 evacuation centres are affected in Casiguran, 40 in Dingalan and 20 in Dipaculao in Aurora province, while 814 people in Pio Duran, Albay district are evacuated. These numbers are expected to rise in the coming days as more information becomes available from the field.

The United Nations Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator *a.i.* wrote to the Government on 12 August offering support, should it be required. The HCT and partners will provide technical assistance in conducting rapid needs assessment and information management upon request.

Response Preparedness

Government and non-government

- On 9 August, the Government of the Philippines initiated preparedness measures such as early warnings, pre-emptive evacuation, establishment of evacuation centres, repositioning relief items and alerting response personnel. The Philippine Red Cross assisted pre-emptive evacuations directed by disaster authorities and provided affected communities with information to ensure preparedness.

- OCD placed the NDRRM Operations Centre on 'red alert' status. NDRRMC member agencies the Department of Social Welfare and Development, Department of Health, Department of Internal and Local Government, and the Armed Forces of the Philippines have representatives available on a 24-hour basis at the NDRRM Operations Centre for heightened monitoring and readiness to augment/respond to regional/local DRRMCs when needed.
- The HCT held an ad-hoc meeting to update donors and partners and garner reports from organizations with presence on the ground.
- The Philippines Red Cross and INGOs including Plan, CRS and Save the Children are planning assessments on food, shelter, non-food items, WASH, nutrition and health and they will feed back to the HCT when the assessments are completed. The HCT are standing by, ready to assist in join assessments and information management requests.
- In 2013 AusAid provided AUD \$2 million for prepositioned relief items of food, reproductive kits and non-food items.

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