

HIGHLIGHTS

- An estimated 64,600 people displaced by fighting in September 2013 in Zamboanga City are in need of immediate durable solutions.
- Food security, agriculture, livelihood and shelter support remain priorities in Typhoon Haiyan-affected hinterland communities.
- Clusters develop transition plans as Haiyan response shifts to early recovery.
- After Action Review conducted to take stock of Haiyan civil-military coordination and use of foreign Military Civil Defence Assets.

FUNDING

Typhoon Haiyan

788 million
requested (US\$)

53% funded

Bohol Earthquake

34 million
requested (US\$)

45% funded

Zamboanga Crisis

25 million
requested (US\$)

21% funded

Source: Financial Tracking Service



UNHCR / E. Monato

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Durable solutions needed for Zamboanga IDPs

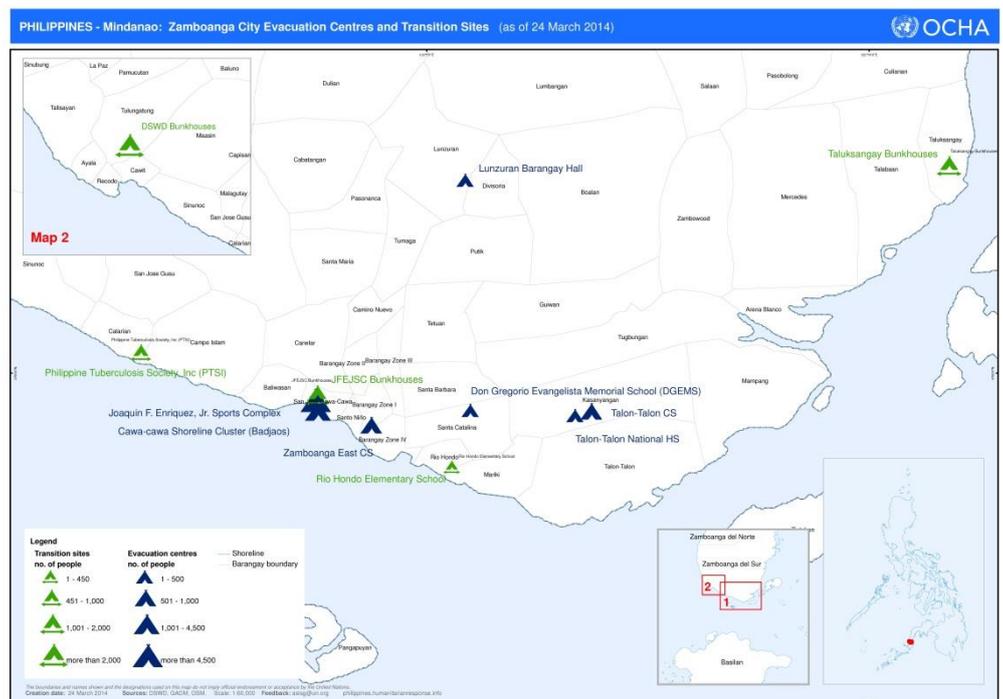
Inadequate water supply and sanitation facilities in evacuation centres increase health risks

In September 2013, over 100,000 people were displaced by fighting between a faction of the Moro National Liberation Front and the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) in Zamboanga City. Six months since the crisis began, an estimated 64,600 internally displaced people (IDPs) are still living in evacuation centres, transition sites and host communities according to the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD).

Lack of access to adequate, safe water supply and sanitation facilities and overcrowded conditions in the two largest evacuation centres (Joaquin Enriquez Sports Complex and Cawa-Cawa shoreline) hosting some 20,000 IDPs continue to pose serious health concerns including acute respiratory infection, diarrhoea and skin diseases.

The risks have been exacerbated by water rationing imposed in early March due to low water levels in the city's reservoir because of the dry weather season. With only two water tankers available from the city's water agency serving both IDPs and the general public, there has been irregular water delivery to the evacuation centres and transition sites. The WASH Cluster also reported significant gaps in sanitation facilities with an additional 940 latrines still needed in the evacuation centres and transition sites to meet global standards.

While humanitarian partners continue to complement Government efforts to support IDPs in evacuation centres and transition sites, there is a need to focus the response towards ensuring that durable solutions for all IDPs are realized in a timely manner and through an informed and consultative process.



Extended food assistance for IDPs in Zamboanga requested by local authorities

Since the end of general food distribution in December 2013, some 5,600 IDPs in evacuation centres and transitory sites and 6,000 IDPs who returned to their places of origin have benefited from food-for-work programmes of humanitarian partners under the Food Security Cluster. Additionally, 10,900 school children also received food aid through emergency school feeding and 400 vulnerable people—mainly pregnant and lactating women—were reached through vulnerable group feeding.

On 21 March, food support through food-for-work and emergency school and vulnerable group feeding ended. Furthermore, unconditional cash assistance provided by the Philippine Red Cross and the International Committee of the Red Cross to IDPs in evacuation centres, transitory sites and host communities will end in April and the number of cash-for-work programme beneficiaries has been scaled down for an additional three months.

Under the local and regional authorities, the focus has shifted from food security to livelihoods programmes. With the city government beginning implementation of its recovery and rehabilitation plan, city officials have requested additional food support from humanitarian partners to continue to assist IDP families remaining in evacuation centres and transition sites.

Typhoon Haiyan recovery and rehabilitation

Livelihood assistance needed in Western Visayas hinterland communities

Five months after Typhoon Haiyan (known locally as Yolanda) swept through the Philippines, the Western Visayas region is transitioning into rehabilitation and reconstruction. Emergency relief activities are drawing down, with final food and non-food item distributions taking place and partners adapting their activities to support shelter and livelihoods recovery.

As the response has primarily focused on the coastal communities of Capiz and Iloilo provinces, concerns are growing over the recovery of farming communities in the hinterlands of Aklan, Antique and Capiz provinces, where comparatively limited aid has been delivered. As of 24 February, shelter gap analysis indicates that some hard-hit municipalities, such as Jamidan and Tapaz (Capiz), have received limited assistance for shelter self-recovery.

Reports from local officials, civil society organizations and farmer's associations highlighted the difficulties faced by communities in remote inland and upland areas recovering from Haiyan. Livelihoods in these areas are characterized by subsistence farming of rice, maize, banana, coconut, coffee and root crops. Agriculture is primarily rain-fed and output is affected by climate variability.

During field visits to rural communities in the municipalities of Cuartero and Tapaz (Capiz) and Balete (Aklan), farmers indicated agricultural production will be lower this year because of Haiyan and erratic weather. Market access is difficult due to poor road conditions and the increasing price of agricultural inputs is affecting farmers' income. Many people will not be able to afford to repair their typhoon-damaged homes, while the poorest farm labourers with no regular income have been living in crowded makeshift dwellings with inadequate water and sanitation.

The conditions of indigenous people are of particular concern. Some live in remote communities in their ancestral lands and are vulnerable as a result of marginalization and poor access to the outside world. Others live within rural communities, often serving as

Food, agriculture, livelihood and shelter assistance needs to be scaled up in Western Visayas hinterland communities.



Credit: OCHA / J. Tonglet
Tapaz Municipality, Capiz Province – An agricultural labourer repairs his typhoon-damaged home

Clusters develop transition plans as the Haiyan response shifts to early recovery and rehabilitation.

farm labourers. Assistance to these hinterland communities must continue and be scaled up, particularly in food security, agriculture, livelihoods and shelter.

Clusters develop transition plans from emergency response to recovery

In February, the Humanitarian Country Team shifted its focus towards guiding the transition from relief to recovery.

Cluster transition plans were developed taking into account how to collectively contribute, for the duration of the Strategic Response Plan, to maintaining capacity in shelter, agriculture, and early recovery and livelihoods—sectors in which millions of people still need support—while continuing to provide the most vulnerable with life-saving assistance.

As noted by the Emergency Relief Coordinator, Valerie Amos, after her visit to Tacloban City (Leyte) and Guiuan municipality (Eastern Samar) on 26 February, “behind the signs of early recovery there are people who are extremely vulnerable.” The “transition into early recovery and development,” she added, “must be done in a way that does not leave gaps.

While the Government accelerates recovery activities, clusters identified the following urgent needs: identifying the most vulnerable in order to prioritize assistance; agreeing on strategies that handover to the Government recovery activities such as debris clearing and waste management; providing technical and communication tools that ensure government partners are equipped to sustain the response; and providing government training in information management, finance and logistics.

Challenges remain in handing over cluster activities due to limited personnel in some government agencies. Land ownership issues also continue to hinder the early recovery, livelihoods and agricultural response, while the Shelter Cluster is strengthening its efforts to ensure that safer roofing and shelter solutions are in place ahead of the rainy season, beginning in June.

Emergency telecom services for the Haiyan response scale down

The Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC) is scaling down activities in all operational areas as local telecommunications networks recover from Typhoon Haiyan. Services are currently being demobilized in areas where commercial providers are coming back online.

In November 2013, Haiyan decimated the local internet, phone and electricity infrastructure. The ETC was activated to provide emergency telecommunications services to humanitarian organizations responding to the disaster. ETC personnel were deployed within 48 hours of the typhoon making landfall. Since then, over 6,400 humanitarian workers have registered to use ETC wireless services; the highest number recorded in any emergency.

Reconstruction activities aim for more resilient health facilities and services

According to the Department of Health, a total of 571 health facilities were damaged by Typhoon Haiyan, at a cost of about US\$16 million (PHP 730 million). As a leading advocate of safe hospitals initiatives since 2009, the Government of the Philippines (GPH) in its post-Haiyan health facility recovery and reconstruction efforts is aiming to ensure that health facilities and the health system are more resilient through integrated services and universal health coverage, protecting people by ensuring the availability of a health workforce and essential medicines, especially in remote areas.



Credit: OCHA / J. Reyna
Guiuan Municipality, Eastern Samar Province (26 February 2014) – The Emergency Relief Coordinator visits the Haiyan-affected areas to take stock of the recovery efforts

The Health Cluster is supporting the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Haiyan-affected community health centres by developing information and assessment materials on the most damaged facilities, particularly in the Eastern Visayas region. A website that will include information on damaged hospitals and barangay health stations is currently under development. It will also monitor health reconstruction activities and will serve as a one-stop-shop for post-Haiyan health facility reconstruction.

Bohol earthquake recovery update

Construction of permanent shelter and capacity-building activities scale up

The recovery phase in the Bohol earthquake response has gained momentum, with evacuation centres closing, treatment for patients with severe acute malnutrition rolled out and shelter construction increasing. To date, more than 278 core (permanent) houses and 371 temporary shelters have been completed. DSWD also signed an agreement with Habitat for Humanity Philippines to build 8,038 houses. According to the Shelter Cluster, an estimated 10,800 houses were totally destroyed by the earthquake.

On 19 March, the provincial authorities and humanitarian partners discussed transition plans, as dedicated cluster co-leads will withdraw in March and April. Among the challenges identified is the need to increase advocacy with local authorities to allocate resources to rebuild community health centres. Information management and policy development will also need to be considered in the provincial transition plan.

Looking beyond the current recovery phase, there is also a strong need for municipal and provincial capacity-building to improve disaster risk reduction and management. Training on information management in emergency response will be conducted and clusters are providing capacity-building support to municipal partners to ensure the sustainability of response activities into the recovery and rehabilitation phase.



Credit: OCHA / T. Koch
Loon Municipality, Bohol Province – Core houses being constructed for earthquake-affected families

In Brief

Civil-Military Coordination After Action Review takes stock of the use of foreign Military Civil Defence Assets in the Haiyan response.

Typhoon Haiyan Civil-Military Coordination After Action Review

From 10 to 12 March, the Typhoon Haiyan After Action Review on humanitarian-military-police interaction and the use of Foreign Military Civil Defence Assets was held in Manila.

Through the collaborative efforts of the GPH, the AFP, the Philippine National Police, Member States, and UN and NGO partners, the following recommendations were made as a result of a review of the civil-military response to Haiyan: 1) establish a humanitarian civil-military coordination mechanism at the national level; 2) institutionalize a humanitarian civil-military coordination capacity in domestic and international rapid response mechanisms; 3) deploy foreign military assets with competent liaison officers; 4) adopt a co-location strategy (as appropriate) for humanitarian civil-military-police coordination; 5) establish a simple, transparent tracking system; and 6) invest in humanitarian civil-military coordination capacity-building.

The After Action Review report is available at: <http://bit.ly/1gcrnM3>.

Government and Moro Islamic Liberation Front sign peace agreement

On 27 March, the GPH and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front signed the Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro, marking the conclusion of 17 years of peace negotiations. Under the agreement, a new political entity, the Bangsamoro, will replace

the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao by 2016. The agreement aims to end 40 years of protracted armed conflict in Mindanao that has intermittently displaced thousands of people.

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