



This report is produced by OCHA Philippines in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It was issued by OCHA Philippines. It covers the period from 8 to 9 November 2013. The next report will be issued on or around 10 November.

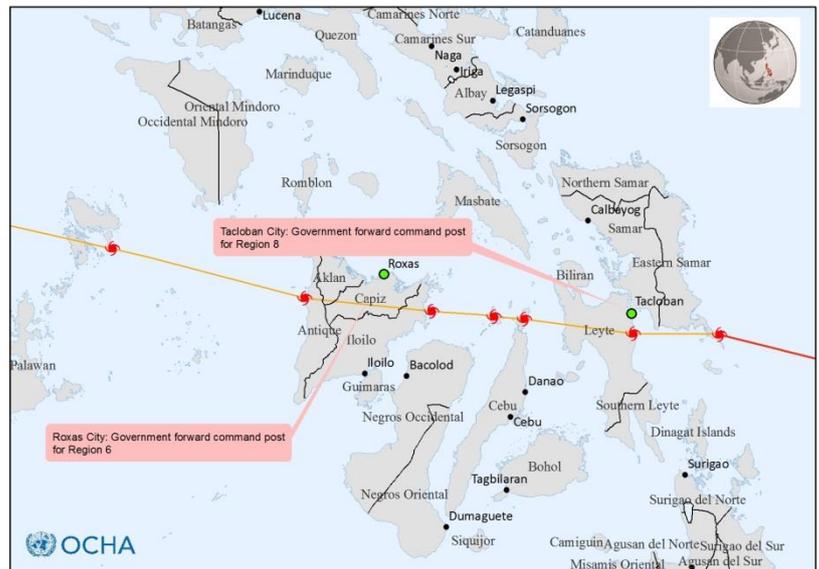
Highlights

- On 9 November, Typhoon Haiyan weakened as it continued to move away from the Philippines.
- About 4.3 million people are affected by the Typhoon in 36 provinces.
- Over 330,900 people are in 1,223 evacuation centres and 11,200 people are staying with host communities.
- Government accepted the UN offer of international assistance.
- Tacloban City has no food, water and no electricity.
- Airports in Visayas remain closed to commercial traffic.

4.3 million
Estimated affected people

1,223
Evacuation centres

Source: DSWD



Situation Overview

Typhoon Haiyan (locally known as Yolanda) weakened (maximum sustained winds of 185 kilometres per hour (km/h) near the centre and wind gusts of up to 212 km/h) as it continued to move away from the Philippines landmass at 35 km/h towards Vietnam in the afternoon of 9 November according to the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Service Administration (PAGASA). PAGASA is monitoring the development of a new low pressure area southeast of Mindanao which may arrive in the Philippines by 11 November.

According to the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), an estimated 944,590 families (4.3 million people) are affected by the Typhoon in 36 provinces in nine regions as of 9 November. A total of 71,623 families (330,914 people) are in 1,223 evacuation centres while 2,352 families (11,223 people) are in host communities. The preliminary data is expected to increase as more information becomes available.

Devastation in Tacloban City, Leyte province, is severe according to the UN Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) team, which deployed on a military aircraft in the early morning of 9 November with members of the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT). The UNDAC team described the scale of destruction comparable to the impact of the 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami. According to the Philippine Red Cross (PRC), flood waters were approximately 3 metres high and brought in by a storm surge in Tacloban City.

There is no food, water and no electricity in Tacloban City. Partners report looting and insecurity in the town. The road linking the airport to the city is impassable due to debris and cadavers. Movement throughout Leyte is not possible until the roads are cleared which is expected to pose significant logistical challenges in the emergency relief operations. Humanitarian partners were advised to be self-sustaining with adequate supplies upon deployment to the affected areas. Many tourists are reported to be stranded in Tacloban City and in need of consular services.

Reports from government sources indicate over 100 people were found dead on the streets in Tacloban City, but are yet to be confirmed. An aerial survey conducted by the Government, HCT members and UNDAC over Leyte indicates significant damage to coastal areas with heavy ships thrown to the shore, many houses destroyed and vast tracts of agricultural land decimated.

In Bogo City and San Remigio, northern Cebu, the PRC reported significant damage to houses and sugar plantations. One elementary school in the area was flattened to the ground and public markets are without roofing. Another PRC assessment team reported that over 50 per cent of houses in Santa Rita, Samar province were damaged. In Calbayog, Santa Margarita, Gandar, Tarangnan and San Jorge, agriculture was severely affected.

There is still no electricity in Bohol, which is recovering from a 7.1 magnitude earthquake that struck on 15 October. However, initial rapid assessments conducted by humanitarian partners across the island on 9 November indicated that no major damage caused by the heavy rains and landslides. People affected by the October earthquake, who relocated to solid structures during the Typhoon crossing, are now returning to the evacuation sites and re-establishing temporary shelter accommodation.

In other parts of Visayas, the scale of destruction may be more widespread. Most areas, however, are still inaccessible. Houses were damaged across the Typhoon's path and flooding was reported in Oriental Mindoro province including Baco municipality, Oriental Mindoro remains 80 per cent under water. Several provinces and municipalities across Visayas have declared a state of calamity.

Telecommunications are still disrupted in Leyte and Eastern Samar. Technicians from the major telecommunications companies are currently working on restoring the network including Télécoms Sans Frontière.

All commercial flights to Tacloban City and Roxas City remain suspended. According to partners on the ground, some ferries connecting Bohol and Leyte resumed their operation. In recognition of the accessibility challenges of responding in multiple affected areas across the Visayan islands, the UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator ad interim (RC/HC a.i.) activated the Logistics and Emergency Telecommunications clusters to support the Government and the humanitarian community.

On 9 November, the Government accepted the offer of international assistance through a letter to the RC/HC a.i. The Armed Forces of the Philippines have also requested support for the installation of emergency lights in four airport runways (Tacloban City, Roxas City, Iloilo City and Busuanga) to facilitate a 24 hour delivery rotation of relief supplies. Fuel storage facilities and emergency generators are needed.

A Member States briefing on Typhoon Haiyan is scheduled for 10 November in Manila to discuss preliminary observations from the field and generate a dialogue on the challenges, priorities and response to meet the needs of the typhoon affected communities.

Humanitarian Response

Local government authorities are leading the humanitarian response in the Typhoon affected areas with additional support being mobilized by the national government. The President of the Philippines has instructed all government agencies to scale up search and rescue operations and prioritize the immediate restoration of telecommunication networks.

In Tacloban City, the Government has airlifted 6,200 food packs via helicopters to communities in and around the city. On 9 November, two C-130 military planes delivered food, water, and relief supplies for distribution on 10 November. DSWD distributed relief goods including three kilogrammes of rice, canned goods, noodles, coffee and sugar which can feed a family of five for two to three days. The military is also providing medical service at the airport.

In Leyte, the PRC have started to distribute relief goods in evacuation centres and to provide hot meals to evacuees.

The closure of air and seaports and the significant amount of debris along the roads continues to constraint the humanitarian response.

General Coordination and Assessments

On 9 November, the Government announced the establishment of two forward command posts to coordinate the emergency relief operations given the widespread area affected by the typhoon. A command post was established in Tacloban City (one hub located in the airport and another in the municipal hall). to respond to the affected areas in eastern Visayas. Another post will be established in Roxas City, Capiz province for western Visayas response. Logistics support for Tacloban City will be based in Cebu while the hub for Roxas City will be in Iloilo City according to the government. The HCT and PRC will also establish a hub in Tacloban City.

Assessment of affected areas in Leyte and Eastern Samar is expected to begin within 24 to 48 hours. However, the areas covered may be limited due fallen trees and debris.

The Government is in the process of establishing a major air hub in Cebu City to expedite the clearance of incoming international assistance.

The RC/HC a.i. confirmed that the Humanitarian Country Team is supporting the Government through the cluster coordination mechanism. Twelve clusters, including Health, Logistics, Emergency Telecommunications, WASH, Nutrition, Education, Protection, Emergency Shelter, Camp Coordination/Camp Management, Early Recovery, Livelihoods and Food Security and Agriculture, are working with partners to ensure initial assessments and rapid response.

On the morning of 9 November, two UNDAC Teams have deployed to Tacloban City. One Assessment Team is based at Tacloban Airport, a second one at Tacloban City townhall. UNDAC established a preliminary office at the airport to brief and coordinate incoming international responders. Additional Teams are expected to deploy on 10 November to Iloilo City..

PRC teams have been deployed and are continuing to conduct assessments throughout the affected areas.

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