Highlights

- Basic community services are being restored quickly in most areas but urgent needs remain in the provision of health, water and sanitation.
- The most vulnerable people, particularly in remote islands and areas, remain food-insecure and highly dependent on food assistance.
- Priorities in Eastern and Western Visayas are to find shelter solutions and prevent disease outbreaks while concurrently speeding up the pace of recovery to rebuild livelihoods.
- An inter-cluster working group is looking at cross-cutting issues surrounding short- to medium-term shelter solutions – including the urgency of processing fallen coconut trees to be used for shelter lumber.

**Situation Overview**

Key findings from the Multi-sector Needs Assessment (phase 2 of the MIRA) indicate that basic community services are being restored quickly in most areas; access to basic services is improving but key health-, nutrition- and sanitation-related services are lacking. Throughout the affected areas, markets are rapidly recovering, although key bottlenecks in the supply chain continue to influence affordability. Livelihoods, especially in farming and fishing, have been severely affected and household incomes will be limited for many months to come. The most vulnerable people, particularly in remote islands and areas, remain food-insecure and highly dependent on food assistance. Access to adequate health services is a key concern for more than a third of the affected population. Preventative measures to avoid nutritional deterioration are needed, and several serious protection concerns have emerged in the aftermath of the typhoon. The Multi-sector Needs Assessment is scheduled for release on 20 December 2013.

An inter-cluster working group has been urgently looking to address short- to medium-term housing solutions to ensure a more coherent approach to create sustainable livelihood solutions. The working group is looking at a number of issues related to no-build zones, informal settlements and relocations. In addition, an advocacy paper on standards for bunkhouses is being drafted that will look to address housing, land and property issues, and the potential risk of gender-based violence and child protection issues. The working group is also looking at finding a quick solution to processing fallen coconut trees to be used for shelter lumber.

**Source:** DSWD as at 06:00 Manila time (22:00 UTC, 19 December), 20 December; NDRRMC as at 06:00 Manila time, 19 December (22:00 UTC, 15 December).

For more information, see “background on the crisis” at the end of the report.

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The mission of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) is to mobilize and coordinate effective and principled humanitarian action in partnership with national and international actors.

**Coordination Saves Lives**
In Region VIII (Eastern Visayas), the priorities are to find shelter solutions, provide basic health services to prevent a disease outbreak, increase the pace of recovery and rebuild livelihoods. The priorities in Region VI (Western Visayas) continue to be emergency shelter, distribution of food (both in-kind and combined with cash), rebuilding of schools and livelihood support. Across the affected areas, humanitarian partners are trying to prioritize the provision of aid to geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas.

**Funding**

A total of US$529.6 million has been contributed to the Typhoon Haiyan response as of 19 December, according to the Financial Tracking Service (FTS). Of this total, $252 million was contributed to the Typhoon Haiyan Action Plan by over 80 entities including Member States, the Central Emergency Response Fund, multilateral institutions, private companies and individuals. The humanitarian community's Strategic Response Plan calling for $791 million has been launched and is closely aligned to the Government’s Recovery Assistance on Yolanda launched on 18 December.


The Philippine Government’s Reconstruction Assistance on Yolanda

Reconstruction Assistance on Yolanda (RAY), the Government’s strategic plan to guide the recovery and reconstruction of the economy, lives and livelihoods in typhoon-affected areas, was launched on 18 December. Drafted by the Philippines’ National Economic Development Authority and subtitled Build Back Better, the plan aims to restore the economic and social conditions of these areas at the very least to their pre-typhoon levels and to a higher level of disaster resilience.

Outputs will include housing; infrastructure, facilities and utilities; employment opportunities; assistance with livelihoods, especially for vulnerable workers in the agriculture and service sectors; and support for cross-cutting social and environmental objectives.

RAY provides the first synthesis of the overall economic impact of Typhoon Yolanda based on the best available data and information. The plan presents an estimate of the total economic damage and loss caused by Yolanda; its impact on the macro-economy, poverty, incomes and employment; an assessment of short- and medium-term recovery and reconstruction needs; and a framework for implementation, including sequencing of interventions and key policy assumptions.

The implementation strategy underpinning RAY is designed to take rapid action to address critical immediate needs and to develop and implement a full set of recovery and reconstruction interventions over the short to medium term.

The plan identifies investment requirements for recovery and reconstruction as follows: critical immediate actions - $0.78 billion; short-term interventions (2014) - $2.05 billion; and an estimated gap for medium-term needs...
Humanitarian Response

Camp Coordination and Camp Management

Needs:
- 381 evacuation centres remain open, providing temporary shelter to 101,527 people. The other 3.77 million displaced people are believed to be staying with friends and family.
- The displacement situation remains fluid: evacuation centres continue to close, while transitional sites are increasing. Resumption of classes, voluntary returns of families to original communities and provision of shelter were identified as the top three reasons for closure of displacement sites.
- The top needs identified by the most recent Displacement Tracking Matrix in regions VI, VII and VIII are shelter repair materials, relocation support and livelihoods support.

Response:
- Local government units in many areas have begun constructing bunkhouses for those who remain in evacuation centres or informal settlements.
- The Cluster is developing strategies to support the Government to meet international standards for IDP settlements, while promoting the need to identify durable solutions.

Gaps & Constraints:
- The construction of bunkhouses that do not meet the standard requirements for hosting IDPs is challenging site management and efforts to provide adequate services to IDPs.
- Livelihoods, protection/trafficking, health and WASH facilities in bunkhouse sites continue to be points of concern.
- Some bunkhouses in Guiuan lack water and sanitation facilities, electricity or other lighting, and are in a no-build zone.

Early Recovery and Livelihood

Needs:
- Some 5.9 million workers’ livelihoods were destroyed, lost or disrupted by Typhoon Haiyan. Of these, 2.6 million have been identified as most vulnerable. The cluster is currently targeting 400,000 of the most vulnerable workers.
- The processing of fallen coconut trees for shelter lumber is urgently required given that rain is expected in January/February.
- A more coherent approach is needed to create sustainable livelihood solutions.

Response:
- Over 14,000 people were engaged in emergency employment programmes in the past month. Debris was removed to allow access to over 300 schools, 3 hospitals, 12 municipal buildings and 120 roads.
- Emergency employment programmes have started in Capiz and Iloilo.
- In Western Visayas, 1,250 people have been engaged in emergency employment programmes.

Gaps & Constraints:
- The Department of Labor and Employment continues to need personal protective equipment and tools to jumpstart emergency employment activities.
- A lack of heavy equipment and operators for debris-clearing remains a constraint, especially in outlying areas.
Education

Needs:
- Additional text-books and learning materials are required for classes that have resumed in schools across affected areas.
- Some 16,800 classrooms are in need of repair (12,400) or replacement (4,400). Additional tarpaulins to be used as temporary roofing for partially damaged classrooms or day-care centres are needed.
- More recreation kits and sustained psychosocial support activities are required.

Response:
- Cluster partners are printing and distributing learning materials required by schools, as established by the Department of Education (DoE).
- Cluster partners are also procuring and distributing materials to establish more temporary learning spaces.
- 1,894 teachers have been debriefed and provided psychosocial support and counselling sessions by the DoE and cluster members.

Gaps & Constraints:
- Data on day-care services and private schools is incomplete.
- Current school enrolment numbers are not available.

Emergency Shelter

Needs:
- 1,127,041 houses have been damaged, of which 578,248 are completely destroyed.
- Cluster members are aiming to provide emergency shelter materials to 300,000 affected households and support for more substantial shelter repair to 500,000 households.

Response:
- Provision of emergency shelter has been rapid and substantial. Support for shelter self-recovery is accelerating.
- To date, 207,495 (70 per cent) of the 300,000 households targeted by cluster partners (1.1 million people) have received basic emergency shelter materials such as tarpaulins, tents, tools and ropes.
- 40,934 (8 per cent) of the 500,000 households targeted by cluster partners (210,000 people) have received support for self-recovery through more substantial shelter repair kits, cash and construction materials, including corrugated iron sheets.

Gaps & Constraints:
- Funding of the Shelter Cluster in the Strategic Response Plan is currently at 19 per cent, versus 31 per cent across all sectors.
- The availability and quality of materials is insufficient, especially roofing materials.
- Housing, land and property issues continue to be of concern. A draft advocacy paper on standards for bunkhouses is being finalized by multiple clusters.
- Additional issues around no-build zones, informal settlements and relocations are also being considered by an inter-cluster technical working group.

Food Security and Agriculture

Needs:
- Nearly 3 million people need support to prevent food insecurity and restore agricultural and fishing livelihoods, including 2.5 million who require life-saving food assistance.
- There is a critical need for in-depth assessments on value chains in the fisheries and agriculture sectors, as well as assessments on damage/debris removal in irrigation and drainage systems in the agriculture sector.

Response:
- As of 18 December, 11,100 tons of rice, 260 tons of high-energy biscuits and almost 18 tons of specialized nutrition products have been dispatched.
Cluster members are moving towards cash transfer interventions and are working with the Department of Social Welfare and Development to support the most food insecure people.

To date, nearly 12,000 people (31 per cent of the 35,000 targeted) have received rice seeds in Regions VI and VIII, and more rice farmers are being reached daily.

**Gaps & Constraints:**
- The Cluster has identified gaps in 48 priority municipalities across all affected regions and is reaching out to local civil society organizations and NGOs to fill these gaps; eight were filled last week.
- Key concerns have been raised by civil society members on the use and distribution of GMO seeds to affected farmers.
- In Region VIII, heavy ferry traffic has hampered seed delivery, meaning warehouse stocks are not currently enough for the distributions planned for 20 December. Alternatives for delivery are being considered, but time is limited.

**Health**

**Needs:**
- Of the 1,204 assessed public health facilities, 870 were reported to be partially or totally damaged.
- Twenty-four suspected cases of measles were reported in Paranas (Western Samar) and are currently being investigated.
- Ten suspected cases of dengue with manifestations of acute haemorrhagic fever were reported from Region VIII (3) and Region VI (7). Heightened surveillance is needed.

**Response:**
- The Health Cluster has mapped health facilities according to level of functionality to better prioritize deployment sites for medical teams. The number of foreign medical teams operating in affected areas has decreased to 55, only six of which have the capacity to carry out surgeries.
- Given concerns about possible outbreaks of dengue and leptospirosis in Guiuan, partners are paying close attention to an increase in fever cases seen over the past two weeks.
- Four reproductive health missions were conducted in Leyte (Tacloban and Palo), Iloilo (Concepcion) and Capiz (Roxas City) serving 818 people.
- Reproductive health kits have been provided in Roxas City (Capiz), Carles (Iloilo) and Palo (Leyte) to serve 30,000 people over 3 months. Also provided were materials for family planning services and clinical management of sexual violence for 10,000 people over 3 months.

**Gaps & Constraints:**
- Little work has been done on the long-term psychological and social consequences of the typhoon, including family violence.
- Accessing health facilities is a challenge for people with disabilities.
- Capacity to diagnose TB is limited, especially in Region VIII.
- The particular health needs of adolescents, the elderly and those with chronic diseases are of increasing concern.
- Six medical teams supporting reproductive health service delivery have left. The Department of Health has medical staff, but they need additional medical equipment and reconstruction of their buildings.

**Nutrition**

**Needs:**
- Priorities include: i) protection and promotion of appropriate infant and young child feeding for 250,000 pregnant women and caregivers; ii) supplementary feeding for 145,000 children; iii) micronutrient supplementation for 100,000 children; iv) treatment of acute malnutrition in 27,000 children.

**Response:**
- To date, 40,456 children under five have been screened for malnutrition.
- Screening activities detected 919 cases of acute malnutrition (119 severe; 800 moderate).
- Partners have committed to implement blanket supplementary feeding for 105,000 children and a pipeline is in place. Distributions have started in Capiz, Iloilo, Eastern Samar and Leyte.
• Over 50 percent of families interviewed during the Multi-Sector Needs Assessment reported having access to services for infant and young child feeding. Partners continue the scale-up services through Barangay Nutrition Scholars, breastfeeding spaces and 40 mobile breastfeeding specialists.

Gaps & Constraints:
• Cluster partners are moving out of Region VI. This has left a gap in systematic screening in Capiz Province (Ivisan and Sapian).

Protection

Needs:
• At least 4,000 more solar lanterns need to be distributed in Cebu since it will take several months to a year to fully restore electricity in some areas.

Response:
• Thirty-eight women police officers received training on protection issues. They will be deployed to nine evacuation centres in Tacloban to staff protection desks for women and children.
• A 24-hour hotline was established in Tacloban to report incidents of unaccompanied children.
• A training on HOPE (Helping Older People in Emergencies) was conducted with protection and non-protection cluster members in Tacloban.
• Five women-friendly spaces have been set up in Tacloban and Borongan.
• In Borongan, 15 Philippines Armed Forces’ members were trained on basic concepts of gender-based violence in emergencies and prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse.
• 246 solar lamps and 1,140 blankets have been distributed to 400 families in Tacloban.
• 69 shelter and reconstruction kits were delivered to 10 indigenous families in Tinabanan and Marabut (over 20 km from Guiuan).
• 83 unaccompanied and separated children have been identified and documented by Child Protection Working Group members.
• 110 child-friendly spaces have been established so far.
• Awareness raising sessions on sexual and physical violence, psychological distress and child labour have been conducted in 15 affected municipalities.

Gaps & Constraints:
• More women police officers are needed in all affected areas to address protection cases.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Needs:
• Government bunkhouse sites need WASH support.
• Further scaling up of WASH activities is required to reduce the risk of a public health outbreak.

Response:
• 3,096 hygiene kits and 5,016 water kits were sent to Palampon, Leyte Province.
• A joint WASH/Health cluster mission is headed to the rural barangay of Burauen, Leyte Province, by helicopter (with water kits) to investigate a diarrhoea alert.
• 752 latrines have been constructed which can serve up to 35,000 people.

Gaps & Constraints:
• Gaps in the WASH response are still significant in Western Leyte.
• Dengue and diarrhoea outbreak risks remain serious concerns and require monitoring and coordination with the Health Cluster in view of the upcoming rainy season.
• Covering WASH needs over such a wide geographical area presents a logistical challenge.
Communication with Communities

Needs:
- People in Tacloban, Guiuan, Borongan and Ormoc need 10,000 solar powered radios and affordable cell phones to better access information on shelter, livelihoods and early recovery plans.

Response:
- The Philippines Information Agency (PIA) is providing daily humanitarian news via the SMS blast system, reaching 5,000 key community stakeholders to date across affected areas in Eastern Visayas Region.
- To support information sharing and feedback, CwC Working Group partners have set up eight child-friendly sites in Tacloban City and Palo and Tolosa in Leyte Province, and nine community desks aimed at women and children in Tacloban City, Guiuan and Borongan.

Gaps & Constraints:
- The mobile radio station used by PIA and First Response Radio will cease operations by the end of the year, adversely affecting information services to affected communities.
- Information desks in evacuation centres need to strengthen their two-way communication platforms to provide more accountable feedback mechanisms and referral services.

Emergency Telecommunications

Response:
- Over 4,000 users are registered on ETC wireless networks and this number is increasing every day.
- The Department of Health and the Logistics Cluster warehouse in Palo (near Tacloban City) have been connected to the Internet.
- Solar backup power supply has been installed in Roxas to power the VHF repeater.
- Internet speeds have improved significantly since switching from the VSAT to DSL in Roxas. Bandwidth in Estancia (Region VI) and Borongan (Region VIII) has also increased.
- The airport in Guiuan has been connected to the wireless network.
- ICT infrastructure is being finalized at the new WFP office in Cebu.
- VHF radio programming and training is ongoing for humanitarians in Cebu, Guiuan and Tacloban.

Gaps & Constraints:
- The intermittent availability of electricity continues to hamper communications.
- Access to fuel in certain areas is also a problem, restricting the use of generators.
- An electrician is urgently needed in Guiuan.

Logistics

Response:
- International air force support operations have phased out. Since the beginning of the response operation, the transport of over 1,000 tons/3,000 m$^3$ of inter-agency cargo for 34 organizations has been facilitated through the Logistics Cluster on military assets.
- WFP has chartered a self-propelled barge with a sailing schedule of Cebu – Roxas – Bantayan. It has a 2,000 ton capacity and can access smaller ports. The Ro-Ro vessel will be phased out on 22 December after its last voyage from Tacloban. Partners are requested to urgently provide information on their upstream pipeline in order to plan capacity requirements for the upcoming period, which could otherwise result in an increase in transportation costs.

Constraints:
- Commercial sector shipping from Manila and Cebu to Tacloban remains overstretched, causing some delays in cargo delivery.
**General Coordination**

On 18 December, the Humanitarian Country Team meeting was attended by Secretary Lacson, Presidential Assistant for Rehabilitation and Recovery in the areas affected by Typhoon Yolanda. HC/RC Carvalho, HCT members and Secretary Lacson agreed to continue building on existing close cooperation to ensure that momentum is not lost in providing for affected communities.

The Early Recovery and Livelihoods clusters held their first joint cluster meeting in Manila. They agreed to disseminate guidance on operationalizing the revised coordination structure at the field level to ensure an enhanced response capacity. Following a review of field-level coordination of cash transfer programming (CTP), it has been agreed that an inter-cluster operational group will be established in each of the coordination hubs to ensure there is good communication between the main clusters involved in CTP.

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**Background on the crisis**

Typhoon Haiyan (known locally as Yolanda) swept through the central Philippines on 8 November, killing over 6,000 people and displacing four million people, flattening homes and damaging schools, health centres and other infrastructure. Some experts estimate the storm was among the strongest ever to make landfall. Some 100,000 people are still in evacuation centres more than six weeks after the storm. On 9 November, the Government accepted the UN’s offer of international assistance. The Government also welcomed the deployment, in the initial phase of disaster response, of a large number of countries’ military assets. The humanitarian community’s Strategic Response Plan calling for $791 million is closely aligned to the Government’s Reconstruction Assistance on Yolanda - RAY (formerly referred to as the Yolanda Recovery and Rehabilitation Plan) launched on 18 December.

**For further information, please contact:**

Romano Lasker, Humanitarian Affairs Officer, Manila, lasker@un.org, Mob: +63 927 293 7910
Russell Geekie, Public Information Officer, geekie@un.org, Mob +63 927 898 2513
Ozgul Ozcan, Philippines Desk Officer, New York, ozcan@un.org, Tel +1 917 367 2075

For more information, please visit [www.unocha.org](http://www.unocha.org) | [www.reliefweb.int](http://www.reliefweb.int) | [http://philippines.humanitarianresponse.info](http://philippines.humanitarianresponse.info)