

This report was compiled and issued by OCHA Philippines on behalf of humanitarian partners and is based on information provided by the clusters. As such, it reflects the position of OCHA and the humanitarian community. It covers the period from 18 to 20 January 2012. The next report will be issued on 24 January 2012.

I. HIGHLIGHTS/KEY PRIORITIES

- Second phase of the joint multi-cluster rapid assessments concludes, 16 municipalities surveyed
- Focus of the response continues to shift towards affected municipalities (barangays), with more aid organisations expanding their coverage to displaced outside of evacuation centres
- Decongestion of overcrowded evacuation centres in school grounds resulted in crowding of other schools and has direct impact on the conduct of school activities
- Shelter and establishment of WASH facilities in new sites remain top priorities
- There is an urgent need to mark the boundaries of the 'no build' zones

II. Situation Overview

Tropical Storm Washi, known locally as Sendong, swept through northern Mindanao between 15 and 18 December 2011. The heavy rains triggered flash floods and landslides in many municipalities across the 13 provinces within its path. Two major cities of Cagayan de Oro (CDO) and Iligan were severely impacted. According to Government estimates, more than 1.1 million people (over 120,000 families) have been affected by the storm which damaged nearly 52,000 houses and destroyed thousands of livelihoods. As many as 400,000 people are reported to have fled their homes in the aftermath of the 17 December disaster. Approximately 25,000 of them have spent their fifth week in evacuation centres (ECs), while another 200,000 continued to camp in makeshift shelters in their areas of origin or to rely on relatives who agreed to host them.

The Government with support from and in collaboration with aid agencies launched immediately a large-scale relief operation with the aim to provide life-saving assistance to those affected, in particular those who lost their homes and livelihoods. According to the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC), more than 430,000 people have benefited from the support provided to date. This includes emergency shelter, food, water, sanitation and hygiene facilities, medical care, psycho-social support and protection, including protection from and prevention of gender-based violence.

Since then, several targeted programmes have been launched, including a variety of cash-for-work and food-for-work schemes geared at providing immediate livelihoods support to the affected and, at the same time, enabling recovery and restoration of infrastructure and common services. Blanket supplementary rations have also been provided to children below the age of five (U5) to prevent malnutrition, while the existing emergency school feeding programme provides meals for some 40,000 school children, some of whom might not be able to attend classes otherwise. Hygiene-promotion campaigns and disease prevention and monitoring activities are also on-going to prevent any unnecessary and potentially life-threatening outbreaks.

The data collection process for the second-phase of joint multi-cluster assessment concluded on 19 January, with a total of 16 municipalities (barangays) surveyed. The results of the assessment, currently being analysed, are meant to provide strong evidence for adjustment of the on-going response plan through proper prioritisation of needs and groups to be assisted.

The key priority for the past few weeks has been provision of adequate shelter solutions to the displaced. Despite the progress made, the land acquired to date remains largely insufficient to accommodate all those in need of housing assistance, including those whose houses were destroyed and those who cannot return to their areas of origin, as they have been declared unsafe for inhabitation. But securing the land is not the only issue to be resolved; tenure security and ownership rights need to be clarified as well for longer-term solutions to be implemented.

Locations of the joint multi-cluster assessments			
Province	Municipality	Barangay	Population
Lanao del Sur	Bubong	Batangan	678
Lanao del Sur	Ditsaan-Ramain	Rantian	816
Lanao del Sur	Kapai	Doronan	709
Bukidnon	Baungon	Lingating	3,639
Bukidnon	Baungon	Pualas	1,952
Bukidnon	Libona	Crossing	3,973
Bukidnon	Libona	Kiliog	1,824
Bukidnon	Valencia City	Batangan	9,922
Lanao del Norte	Iligan City	Digkilaan	4,511
Lanao del Norte	Iligan City	Mahayhay	9,882
Lanao del Norte	Iligan City	Mandulog	4,022
Lanao del Norte	Iligan City	Rogongon	5,198
Misamis Oriental	Manticao	Poblacion	7,937
Misamis Oriental	Manticao	Tuod	2,455
Misamis Oriental	Naawan	Mapulog	1,684
Misamis Oriental	Naawan	Tagbalogo	1,708
Misamis Oriental	Opol	Barra	13,326

Another key challenge is the lack of availability of sufficient and adequate facilities within the alternate sites that have been or will be allotted which continues to hamper the relocation process. Better coordination between aid organisations and the Government is required to make sure that relevant information reaches partners responsible for constructing latrines, bathing and laundry facilities as well as common spaces in advance, to enable their planning and reduce the existing delays between identification of a site for construction of shelters and full readiness of such a site to receive the displaced.

The humanitarian community also continues to support the Government to ensure that any relocation takes place in a coherent, safe and dignified manner and that all shelter solutions are put together in consultation with all of the displaced, including the vulnerable groups, to enable them to make informed decisions regarding the future of their families.

As children continue to be one of the most vulnerable groups in this emergency, the humanitarian community strives to ensure that they are protected and their well-being is promoted. This entails keeping track of affected children and providing services for them wherever they are, particularly as families move between evacuation centres, transit sites and host communities. Children most at risk include separated and unaccompanied children. The continuing identification, registration and referral of separated, unaccompanied and/or orphaned children to the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) for case management is vital, to prevent trafficking, abuse or exploitation. To date, some 51 cases of separated and unaccompanied children have been identified across both CDO and Iligan cities, with support from aid agencies. Providing psycho-social support (PSS) to assist children's recovery and return to normalcy as soon as possible is also crucial. This work has already begun through child-friendly spaces (CFS) activities and the resumption of classes. Temporary learning spaces (TLS) have been set up where schools have been damaged or destroyed, with teachers receiving training on how best to support the children in their care. All these efforts can only be successful when implemented in consultation with children, to ensure that their voices are heard and considered.

III. Humanitarian Needs and Response



CAMP COORDINATION AND MANAGEMENT AND NON-FOOD ITEMS

Needs: The Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) and NFI cluster, co-chaired by IOM, aims to provide emergency shelter repair kits and other NFIs to the displaced families. It also supports the 40 existing ECs in both CDO and Iligan.

The cluster identified the following priority needs: (i) collection of disaggregated data for all groups of the displaced, with particular attention to determining the number of displaced in host families and in rented accommodations, (ii) identification of transit sites to facilitate decongestion of ECs set up school grounds, (iii) upgrading of EC facilities to fully meet the needs of the displaced leading to enhanced conditions and privacy in ECs, and (iv) improving information-gathering and dissemination among partners.

Response: In addition to the on-going activities reported previously, the cluster continues to monitor the Calaaan I transitory relocation site (TRS) hosting 408 families and is preparing for the opening of the Lumbia TRS which is to accommodate 500 families. Planning for the opening of Calaaan II TRS is also in progress. To date, nearly 75,000 people in remote, storm-affected communities in Iligan, Lanao del Norte, Lanao del Sur and Bukidnon have received NFIs provided by UNHCR, including plastic sheets and rolls, blankets, kitchen sets, shovels, synthetic mats, garbs, garden hoses and ropes.

Gaps & Constraints: In addition to gaps/constraints reported to date, better synchronisation and coordination of activities with national and local government units and other clusters is required.



SHELTER

Needs: The Shelter cluster, co-led by IFRC, targets 38,556 families whose houses were destroyed or damaged. In CDO alone, close to 5,000 families will need to be prioritised for permanent relocation, including 2,740 families living within the 'no build' zone and another 2,084 families remaining in ECs. In Iligan the number of families identified for permanent relocation is 5,239. However, once the 'no-build' zone is implemented there and the profiling of displaced is completed, this number is expected to reach 8,000 families.

Response: A planned sector-specific assessment is to begin next week. The cluster also continued to provide technical assistance to the authorities to ensure safe, informed and dignified relocation that minimises multiple transfers of the displaced.

Preparations for transitory and permanent relocation sites are on-going and tenure issues are being clarified. The Shelter cluster has been advocating for SPHERE standards to be followed in the Calaanan II site to avoid possible overcrowding and congestion. Relocation of beneficiaries to the Calaanan II and Lumbia transitory sites is supposed to start next week. The shelter cluster is working with the authorities in Iligan to encourage appropriate spacing between shelters and tents and avoiding overcrowding of the tents.

The cluster continues to advocate for rapid physical marking of the 'no build' zones to ensure that the displaced know whether they will need to relocate to new sites or have the option of returning to their area of origin.

Gaps & Constraints: In addition to existing gaps already reported, there is an urgent need to mark the boundaries of the 'no build' zones. A clear information campaign on permanent relocations is also needed.



WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH)

Needs: The Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) cluster members focus on improving water, sanitation and hygiene access for some 150,000 affected people, of which about 25,000 are those remaining in ECs and transit sites. In addition, WASH-related interventions, meant to prevent disease outbreaks, are being scaled up to include affected municipalities.

Response: The construction of latrines, hand-washing and bathing facilities in transit sites is on-going. The WASH cluster is working with CCCM cluster to prioritise sites for WASH interventions, taking into account the intended timeframe of their operation. Pending availability of funds (\$375,000), repair of water pumps in Iligan could begin in two weeks. Meantime, water-tracking to 11 ECs and transit sites as well as to affected communities will have to continue, with additional trucks being required to meet the demand.

The latrine coverage target, defined under WASH strategy, has been met in 72 per cent of sites in CDO and 54 per cent of sites in Iligan. The issue of the collapsed pit at the Iligan sewage dump site has been resolved and de-sludging has recommenced.

A training of City Health Office (CHO) workers and nursing students is scheduled for next week in Iligan, with the aim to improve the extremely low coverage of hygiene promotion in ECs and transit sites. A WASH-specific assessment has been completed in 15 out of the 41 municipalities to be covered in CDO.

Gaps & Constraints: In addition to gaps reported previously, involvement of additional actors is required to meet the increasing demand for WASH facilities. High water tables in Iligan and high maintenance costs for portable toilets increase this need even further. Environmental sanitation remains a major concern. Stronger advocacy is also required to prevent potential health outbreaks amongst those involved in debris-clearing.



FOOD SECURITY

Needs: With more beneficiaries being identified in CDO, Iligan and rural and suburban areas, the number of the affected people requiring immediate food assistance is estimated at 250,000. The Food Security cluster, co-led by WFP, is progressively shifting the focus of its interventions from EC-based families to the displaced outside of ECs and their host families, particularly those in remote and inaccessible areas, some of which can be only accessed by air. In addition to supporting debris-clearing and construction of shelter through food-for-work schemes, the cluster will also support emergency school feeding programmes targeting 40,000 children and promoting return of children to schools.

Response: In addition to the on-going activities reported previously, various food-for-work programmes are being implemented in partnership with IOM, Plan-International, FAO and UNHCR. The schemes enable rebuilding of livelihoods and support debris-clearing, school repairs, construction of relocation sites and agricultural rehabilitation. A targeted food security assessment is also being conducted.

Gaps & Constraints: Funding for cluster-run programmes remains insufficient.



LOGISTICS

Needs: The Logistics cluster's aim is to support the humanitarian community to deliver life-saving assistance to some 430,000 people seeking refuge in ECs and staying with relatives or in makeshift shelters. The cluster also assists in the delivery of relief goods to those in remote, suburban areas which remain cut off.

Response: In addition to the on-going operations support activities reported to date, in the week of 16 January the cluster continued to work with the Office of Civil Defense (OCD), DSWD, the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), local government units (LGUs) and other clusters to ensure that relief goods can be dispatched and delivered promptly. Assistance with goods-tracking was also provided.

Gaps & Constraints: Same as reported before.



PROTECTION, INCLUDING CHILD PROTECTION AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

Needs: The Protection cluster, co-chaired by UNHCR, supports 36,500 extremely vulnerable individuals. During the first phase, essential items are delivered to families to ensure protection and safety. The second phase focuses on community-based activities to help decongest ECs, stabilize communities and find durable solutions, particularly those in remote communities, those additionally impacted by the on-going armed conflicts and people with specific needs. The cluster also provides advice on humanitarian assistance and relocation.

The Child Protection sub-cluster, co-chaired by UNICEF, targets another 200,000 people through child protection activities. The aim is to enhance the capacity of DSWD, LGUs and other clusters; protect children from abuse, exploitation and trafficking; support and assist in reunifying separated and unaccompanied children; and ensure safe-play and recreation areas are provided them to assist in return to normalcy and to aid the healing process.

The gender-based violence (GBV) sub-cluster, co-chaired by UNFPA, aims to support 100,000 affected people, mostly displaced women and girls. It does so through reduction of GBV risks in displacement and prospective return areas; supporting capacity building within relevant government agencies; GBV prevention in and around ECs; provision of medical and psycho-social services to displaced survivors; and mainstreaming gender and GBV prevention into other humanitarian activities.

Response: In addition to on-going activities reported to date, UNHCR is providing physical, mental and medical assistance to 59 people with special needs in 11 ECs in Iligan and is training their families on post-disaster care and support. To date, the cluster provided assistance to more than 17,000 vulnerable families (over 86,000 people). The Commission on Human Rights of the Philippines (CHRP) is analysing the local legal framework as a phase towards finalising its advisory for the protection of people during relocation and closure of ECs.

Of the 19 separated and unaccompanied children managed by DSWD in Iligan City, four have been reunified with their families and 15 more live with their relatives for in foster care. In CDO, one of the four separated and unaccompanied children has been reunified with their family, one remains with a relative, and two were referred to DSWD for temporary shelter while family tracing is being conducted. PSS and CFS activities are also being conducted.

The GBV sub-cluster is installing protection prevention measures for women and children in ECs in both Iligan and CDO, including establishment of women's desks managed by female officers of the Philippine National Police (PNP). PNP and women's NGOs are conducting information sessions in ECs on women-related laws, human rights as well as prevention of and response to violence against women in emergencies. Women-friendly spaces were established in three pilot sites in Iligan and one in CDO.

Gaps & Constraints: In addition to gap/constraints reported to date, the urgent need for rebuilding almost totally damaged houses and providing livelihoods in rural communities and hinterlands remains. Lack of documentation, including birth certificates and property titles in these areas and some ECs make access to services difficult.

No GBV surveillance or rescue and referral mechanisms are available to the displaced in remote and isolated areas. Women-friendly spaces are still not available in many ECs and sites.



EDUCATION

Needs: The Education cluster plans to assist some 210,000 affected school children, many of them in CDO and Iligan cities, by providing early childhood care and development and basic education, strengthening child rights and protective mechanisms in learning institutions and enhancing teachers' capacity to provide psycho-social support (PSS). The cluster is also arranging and sustaining emergency school activities in and outside ECs.

Response: The school feeding programme and on-going PSS activities have a positive impact on attendance rates, now reaching nearly 100 per cent. Save the Children provided additional 983 back-to-school kits and three school tents and initiated clean-up of 10 schools through a cash-for-work scheme. Learning kits for the 42 damaged day care centers were also provided. The Department of Education (DepEd) allocated \$450,000 from its Quick Response Fund (QRF) for repair and rehabilitation of schools.

Gaps & Constraints: In addition to previously-reported gaps/constraints, an effort needs to be made to support schools to which some of the displaced were relocated ahead of the resumption of classes. The implemented decongestions of overcrowded ECs resulted in crowding of other schools and have direct impact on conduct of school activities there. Educational needs of out-of-school children and youth in ECs in school grounds and relocation areas need to be addressed. WASH support to schools is also required.



HEALTH, INCLUDING REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

Needs: The Health cluster aims to assist some 300,000 affected people, including 10,000 pregnant and lactating women (PLW), 20,000 young people and 5,000 family planning users through provision of life-saving care to injured, psycho-social support to the affected, monitoring, prevention and, should it become necessary, containing disease outbreaks and addressing reproductive health needs of the displaced.

Response: In addition to the on-going disease surveillance activities, members of the Health cluster provided medical consultations to 2,200 people and distributed Doxycycline (Leptospirosis profilaxis) to more than 4,400 people in CDO alone. Vitamin A supplementation was also provided to some 6,700 people. Mosquito nets have been distributed in ECs in CDO and Iligan. The number of cases of Dengue fever is increasing as expected at this time of the year. More referrals for specialised psychiatric care have also been reported.

To date, the Reproductive Health sub-cluster has provided assistance to a total of 1,932 PLW in CDO, Iligan City and Lanao del Sur and distributed NFIs in 22 ECs in CDO, Iligan and Bukidnon. Joint programming for addressing youth issues was initiated by Save the Children with technical assistance from UNFPA.

Gaps & Constraints: Health databases for each EC need to be adjusted to reflect the movements of the displaced. Mental Health and PSS approaches and services must be harmonised and made consistent with the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) guidelines.



NUTRITION

Needs: The Nutrition cluster targets 42,000 children under five years of age (U5) and 22,750 PLW in and outside of ECs. Priority areas of intervention include: (i) protection and promotion of appropriate infant and young child feeding (IYCF) practices; (ii) provision of micronutrient supplementation to children aged 6-to-59 months; (iii) ensuring access to appropriate, life-saving treatment for some 1,600 children aged 6-59 months suffering from severe and moderate acute malnutrition (SAM/MAM), and (iv) timely nutrition surveillance and assessment of IYCF practices in ECs, relocation sites and within host communities.

Response: Recent screening of all ECs in Iligan and a third of ECs in CDO revealed a rate of global acute malnutrition (GAM) of 5.6 per cent, with GAM and SAM in Iligan being respectively 0.9 and 0.7 per cent higher than in comparison with CDO. This translates into a 2.0 and 0.7 per cent increases to GAM and SAM in Iligan over the period of three past weeks.

Blanket distributions of ready-to-use supplementary food have reached over 10,000 children in CDO, Iligan and Lanao Del Sur. Micronutrient powder and Vitamin A supplementation have also been provided to 1,861 and 3,168 children respectively in 60 per cent of ECs. Nutrition interventions (including screening and assessment) targeting displaced children and PLW outside of ECs will be conducted as of next week. The

cluster is also advocating for compliance with the SPHERE standards to ensure the nutritional needs of the disaster-affected population, including the most vulnerable groups, are met.

Gaps & Constraints: Unless additional resources are made available to improve the current food distributions (ration size and the energy, protein, and micronutrient content), malnutrition levels will increase.



EARLY RECOVERY

Needs: Debris-clearing and clean-up in 53 affected villages (barangays) remain the main focus of the cluster. This is being achieved through cash- and food-for-work programmes meant to provide some 39,300 families with opportunities to rebuild their livelihoods and to ensure their access to food.

Response: Debris-clearing and clean-up continued, with the focus of work shifting from main highways, access roads and schools to de-clogging of drainage systems and clean-up of communities. The cluster is leading discussions on transition from current humanitarian activities to longer-term development.

Gaps & Constraints: In addition to gaps/constraints reported previously, debris-clearing remains major concern, with huge amount of mud, rocks, gravel, logs and boulders covering up to 90 per cent of farm lands blocking access to livelihoods.

IV. Coordination

During the week of 16 January, OCHA and WFP supported the Government-led data-collection process of the second phase of the multi-cluster needs assessment. From 17 to 19 January several teams, composed of Government agencies officials, UN agencies and NGO staff, conducted direct observation and surveyed more than 150 key informants in 16 barangays in Misamis Oriental, Bukidnon, Lanao del Sur and Lanao del Norte. Emphasis was placed on collecting information on those areas for which there is currently little information and limited access. Data obtained has been made available to clusters and the Government on 20 January. Clusters will analyse the data in the next two days, ahead of the inter-cluster analysis workshop scheduled for 23 January. The aim of the workshop is to identify priority areas and interventions and to translate them into a revised plan of action which will be presented under the forthcoming revised Flash Appeal document.

On 20 January, the UN Humanitarian Coordinator briefed the development partners in Manila on the current humanitarian situation and response to date (one month on), on-going second phase of needs assessments, the way forward and key challenges to the response. In addition to officials from the governments of the United States, Canada, Germany, Switzerland, Australia and Spain, several member agencies of the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) and the World Bank attended the meeting.

IOM has announced the arrival of a dedicated coordinator for the Camp Coordination and Camp Management cluster (CCCM) during the critical period of possible new movements. The cluster is responsible for evacuation centres and transit and temporary relocation sites.

The Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General on Disaster Risk Reduction Margareta Wahlstrom will travel to Cagayan de Oro and Iligan from 24 to 25 January. During her visit, she will meet with local and regional authorities as well as humanitarian and development partners to discuss incorporating disaster risk reduction, early warning and preparedness efforts into existing relief, recovery and rehabilitation activities to ensure increased resilience of the rebuilt communities. Ms. Wahlstrom will also hold similar discussions with national Government officials in Manila.

V. Funding

No additional bilateral funding and/or funding channelled through the UN Flash Appeal has been reported between 17 and 20 January.

To date, some \$7.8 million or 27 per cent has been contributed against the appeal in support of provision of emergency shelter, food and water, sanitation and hygiene support as well as logistics. Nearly \$3 million of this amount has been disbursed from the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) to enable life-saving interventions in the aftermath of the disaster.

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