

This report is produced by OCHA in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It was issued by OCHA Philippines. It covers the period from 27 to 28 December 2011. The next report will be issued on 30 December.

I. HIGHLIGHTS/KEY PRIORITIES

- Humanitarian assistance is urgently required outside of the urban hubs of Cagayan de Oro and Iligan
- Finding more durable shelter solutions for the displaced in evacuation centres in school grounds remains a priority, lack of such solutions is likely to impact resumption of school term in early January
- Capacity on the ground and the number of partners continue to increase making information management and coordination a priority
- Other key priorities include: water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), food and NFIs

II. Situation Overview

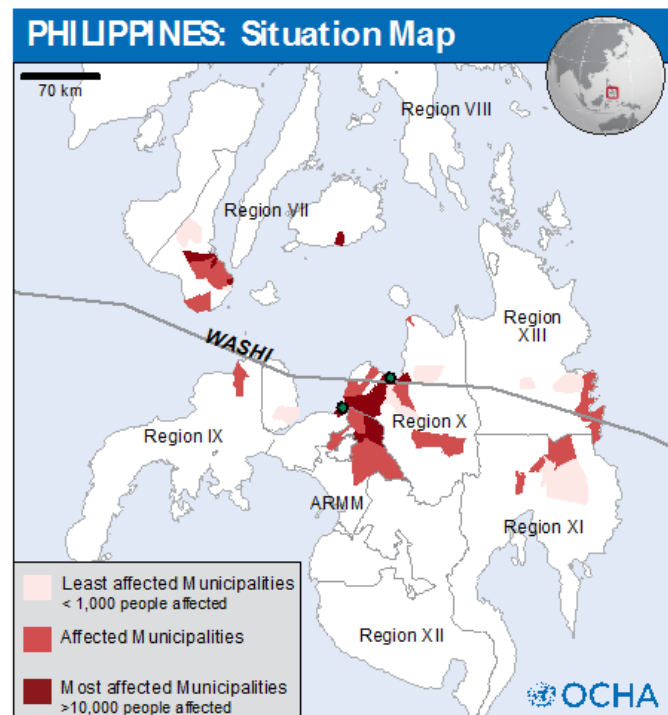
Relief operations are well under way in areas affected by flash floods and landslides following Tropical Storm Washi, known locally as *Sendong*, which has killed 1,249 people to date. According to the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) some 720,860 people are affected in 13 provinces. Of those, 54,473 remain in 53 evacuation centres concentrated mostly in the urban areas of Cagayan de Oro (CDO) and Iligan. All of the people in the centres are by now receiving food, water, sanitation and hygiene and health assistance and NFIs. The Government, supported by the humanitarian community and civil society, also continues to provide similar support to the affected people remaining in their areas of origin, with relatives or in make-shift shelters in these areas.

Although significant assistance has already been provided to people in CDO and Iligan and to a lesser extent in parts of Lanao del Norte and Lanao del Sur (LDN/LDS), many of those living in remote and isolated areas, some of which were cut off for as long as five days, remain in urgent need of assistance.

As the humanitarian community continues to beef up its capacity on the ground (focused around two new operational hubs in Cagayan de Oro and Iligan) and relief goods continue to arrive, information management and coordination have emerged as areas requiring attention. This is in addition to the already existing and urgent need to identify more durable shelter solutions for the displaced in congested evacuation centres, mostly schools, which must be vacated by early January when school activities are due to resume.

Twelve days into the response, WASH, food and nutrition, access to health services, including psycho-social support, NFIs, logistics and debris clean-up and coordination are the key priorities. Insufficient storage facilities, lack of comprehensive information from all affected areas and funding are amongst the main challenges to on-going response.

Over the last two days, new floods hit Bukidnon in north-eastern Mindanao further straining search and rescue operations launched following the Tropical Storm Washi. Although there were no more casualties reported, 1,146 families were evacuated as a pre-emptive action.



III. Humanitarian Needs and Response



WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH)

Needs: Recent estimates indicate that more than 14,000 families in at least 46 ECs require urgent WASH support. Provision of safe drinking water, ensuring proper access to sanitation/bathing facilities and promotion of overall hygiene remain a top priority for the cluster. Similar emergency WASH assistance also needs to be provided to 50,159 affected families which remain with relatives or in their areas of origin.

Response: A sanitation strategy is currently being finalized by the Department of Health (DOH) and the WASH Cluster, which is to include construction of sewage disposal sites in both CDO and Iligan. Meanwhile, Humanitarian Response Consortium (HRC) and Oxfam are already working in collaboration with local government units (LGUs) on development of such sites. In addition, the 120 portable toilets provided by UNICEF will be established at various sites across CDO and Iligan in the coming days.

Water storage tanks and tap stands are now available in 10 ECs in CDO after Action Contre la Faim (ACF) and Swiss Development Aid (SDA) established six units. In addition, SDA provided the Water District (WD) with a basic water quality laboratory and are proceeding with a two-day water quality testing and chlorination trainings for WD staff.

To date, some 5,374 families inside and outside of ECs have been provided with jerry cans, while hygiene kits have been distributed to 2,377 of affected families. Cluster partners plan to scale up these distributions in the coming days and intensify water disinfection.

On 28 December, cluster agencies, notably HRC/Oxfam & Catholic Relief Services, assessed today WASH capacity/standards of the two sites in CDO identified as areas for future transitional housing.

Gaps & Constraints: All WASH activities require further scaling up, both inside and outside ECs as well as in the proposed transitional housing areas, with the understanding that this assistance must be extended to include affected people outside the urban hubs of CDO and Iligan. Trucking of water from the source to the affected populations on the western side of CDO city remains a challenge.



FOOD SECURITY

Needs: Provision of ready-to-use and nutritionally-appropriate food assistance remains a priority, with the bulk of those in need concentrated in urban areas of CDO and Iligan. Similar interventions are also urgently required for people in remote and isolated villages (barangays).

Response: Members of the Food Security cluster are currently assisting some 250,000 of severely-affected people in CDO, Iligan and Lanao del Sur (LDS), including 15,000 children, with cereals, pulses, oil and blended foods (a total of 10,542 metric tones). Distributions have also started in the Barangay Mandulog (Iligan area), which has been severely affected but has so far received little attention.

The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) has requested the cluster's support for its post-emergency rehabilitation activities through establishment of a food-for-work scheme. In partnership with LGUs from affected areas, the cluster is also undertaking various food-for-work activities, including clearing of access roads which will result in improved humanitarian access. Discussions are also underway to implement cash and voucher programmes for the urban poor whose livelihoods have been severely affected by the storm so they can purchase food in local markets. The ongoing, ACF-led market assessment will determine the viability of the proposed programmes. Meanwhile, WFP is partnering with the Community and Family Services International (CFSI) to scale up monitoring activities.

Gaps & Constraints: Taking into account the USD 800,000 received from the CERF, the cluster urgently requires \$7,650,000 in order to meet the nutritional and food requirements of the 250,000 affected people it aims to assist.



CAMP COORDINATION AND MANAGEMENT / NON-FOOD ITEMS / SHELTER

Needs: The total number of displaced people in ECs has decreased since the last reporting period. Key priority needs remain: (i) identification of alternative sites to relocate the displaced from ECs established on school grounds to enable the resumption of classes in early January, (ii) decongesting overcrowded ECs, (iii) upgrading facilities within ECs to meet the needs of the displaced and (iv) improving existing information-gathering and dissemination mechanisms.

Response: The CCM/NFI/S cluster is now fully operational in CDO and efforts to duplicate it in Iligan are ongoing. To date two sites (at total of 8.5 hectares of land) have been identified for relocating some 2,400 families from Calaanan and Lumbia. Technical working groups led by UN Habitat and IOM have been established to focus on each relocation area with the objective of beginning relocations in early January. Social preparation planning for relocation is also on-going.

Meanwhile, distribution of NFIs continues with UNHCR reporting distribution of 1,125 plastic sheets in nine barangays in Iligan. Other partners also continue to coordinate distributions of NFI in CDO through Xavier University.

Gaps & Constraints: An improved mechanism for tracking distribution of NFIs needs to be established. Existing ECs require urgent upgrades, including adding temporary WASH and communal facilities and repairing damages to existing structures. More NFIs such as plastic sheeting, sleeping mats, cleaning materials and hygiene kits are still needed.



LOGISTICS

Needs: The most urgent logistics needs include: (i) transport of relief goods from Manila, Davao and Catabato to CDO and Iligan, (ii) transport support for DSWD in Manila and Mindanao, (iii) storage of food and NFIs in CDO and Iligan, as well as (iv) coordination with the Office of Civil Defense (OCD), DSWD, the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), LGUs and other clusters.

Response: A new logistics hub with a capacity of a 1,000m² is being established in CDO to augment the existing DSWD's capacity. The first 300m² will be ready to accommodate relief goods as of 29 December. Meanwhile, in support of DSWD, the logistics cluster transported and is storing donations received from Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and continues to support transport from Manila and within CDO itself. Some 1,700 hygiene kits were also airlifted for UNFPA from Cotabato to CDO. In addition, three 20-foot trucks were provided on request of UNHCR to enable the delivery of additional NFIs from Manila and Quezon City to CDO.

Gaps & Constraints: Lack of storage capacity remains a key issue as more supplies arrive. The DSWD compound is nearing its maximum capacity.

Shipments: In order to ensure timely customs clearance of all foreign shipments of relief goods, partners should ensure that the following information is provided to the One Stop Shop (OSS)/DSWD in CDO: (i) airway bill, (ii) deed of donations, (iii) packaging list and (iv) invoice. Additional information regarding shipment can be obtained from CDO and DSWD.



PROTECTION, INCLUDING CHILD PROTECTION AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

Needs: Further assessments by UNHCR and partners in Bukidnun, Lanao del Norte and Lanao del Sur (LDN/LDS) indicate that families in the highlands and in remote communities have also been affected. UNHCR, UNFPA and UNICEF are concerned about the lack of disaggregated data and protection mechanisms to identify and support persons with specific needs, including pregnant and lactating women, people with disabilities and elderly. All cluster members are concerned about the congestion of ECs, where sanitation facilities for women and girls remain inadequate, and the resumption of school activities early next week given that many schools serve as ECs.

Response: In collaboration with local NGOs, DSWD and the City of Iligan, UNHCR distributed 1,125 plastic sheets to some 5,625 individuals affected by the floods in Iligan, LDN/LDS. In some cases, this was the first assistance received. Meanwhile, UNHCR is assisting DSWD in obtaining and mapping data which will be used to identify and assist communities with specific needs more accurately.

Gaps & Constraints: A decision on how to further support communities in ECs, especially in CDO, will depend on the relocation plans by the Government. At the same time, UNHCR urges humanitarian partners to provide more support to communities residing in (more remote) rural areas that need additional support, especially in LDN/LDS. Management of data, especially mapping and receiving of disaggregated data, needs to be enhanced. Allegations that assistance is not being delivered to Muslim and indigenous communities remain unconfirmed; nonetheless, it is likely that these groups are not receiving as much support due to their remote location.



HEALTH, INCLUDING REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

Needs: Acute respiratory infections, fever, open wounds, acute watery diarrhea and skin diseases are amongst the most-frequently reported health concerns. Leptospirosis and suspect measles cases have also been reported in some ECs. Provision of regular consultative medical services for all affected is a priority, so is increasing the number of physicians and the supplies of clothes, underwear and hygiene kits for women (particularly those pregnant or lactating) in ECs. Furthermore, the provision of mental health and psychosocial support, concentrated to date within ECs, must be expanded to include affected populations who have chosen to remain in their areas of origin or with relatives.

Response: Medical posts set up by DOH in ECs are expanding, with some operating on a 24/7 basis. UNFPA trained medical personnel are serving these posts on the Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP) and Reproductive Health for Emergency Situation (including performing emergency deliveries). WHO supported DOH in providing training on Surveillance in Post Extreme Emergencies and Disasters (SPEED) for 25 hospital staff and partners from German Doctors, as well in some of the barangay health centers in CDO city. UNFPA is continuing the registration of pregnant and lactating women (PLW) and the coordination of RH activities with government as well as private groups.

Gaps & Constraints: Unequal deployment of medical teams within ECs and the lack of additional doctors need to be addressed without delay to ensure provision of round-the-clock health services across all locations. Education for the prevention of communicable diseases, like diarrhea, has also been identified as a priority. In addition, greater emphasis on coordination and collaboration among all partners is required. Availability of operational funds remains a challenge.



EDUCATION

Needs: The cluster estimates that the number of affected school children aged 3-15 years in CDO and Iligan stands at 123,300. Notwithstanding the need to intensify the process of tracking school children that are still unaccounted for, much still has to be done in terms of providing psycho-social support services.

Most urgent is the preparation and clean-up of schools ahead of the return of class activities early next week. According to the Department of Education (DepEd), a total of 29 school buildings in CDO, Iligan and Caraga require major repairs, while another two schools in Iligan were washed out and need to be relocated. Given that reconstruction work for these 31 schools (more than 200 classrooms) may take a few months, setting up temporary learning spaces together with replacing damaged and lost learning materials and supplies are the most immediate needs.

Response: Xavier University, World Vision, UNICEF, DSWD and CFSI are providing education in emergencies and psycho-social support to some 225 affected children and teachers. Meanwhile, Save the Children International is focused on promotion of hygiene, provision of 8,000 back-to-school kits, and improvement of school facilities, including WASH, in CDO and Iligan.

In preparation for the resumption of classes, DepEd is working with affected school principals on readiness plans. In addition to looking to rent equipment for cleaning schools, it has also identified alternate locations (covered courts and chapels) which could temporarily accommodate pupils.

A more in-depth assessment of affected schools is being planned by the cluster. CFSI is assessing ECs in CDO and Iligan and collaborating with the Child Protection Working Group in CDO on child registration.

Gaps & Constraints: Student and teacher' packs with boots, raincoats and water containers are needed.



NUTRITION

Needs: An initial screening for acute malnutrition in Iligan found that 18 out of 513 children under the age of 5 are moderately malnourished (3.5%) and six are suffering from severe acute malnutrition (1.16%).

Response:

Infant and Young Child Feeding support: Breastfeeding support groups and nutrition focal teams are starting to be formed for the ECs in CDO and Iligan. Orientations on infant and young child feeding in emergencies (IYCF-E) for barangay health workers and nutrition schools have started in both cities. Meanwhile, City Health Office in Iligan established a breastfeeding tent. The nutrition cluster is working to coordinate the donation of pasteurized human breastmilk for use in the breastfeeding areas and will support DOH in releasing a statement reiterating the policies on milk product donations for dissemination to key offices.

Micronutrient nutrition: DOH is providing Vitamin A supplementation to children 6-59 months old both in CDO and Iligan together with supplementary measles vaccination.

Management of acute malnutrition: The cluster has identified possible partner institutions for severe acute malnutrition management, with essential supplies (i.e. therapeutic food) already prepositioned in CDO.

In addition, WFP continued distributing Ready-to-Use Supplementary Food (RUSF) to all children 6-59 months in ECs in CDO and Iligan. UNICEF supported the Government by providing IEC materials on IYCF, Multiple Micronutrient Powders (MNPs) for children 6-59 months old in evacuation centers, and supplies for nutrition screening and management of acute malnutrition, the latter in collaboration with German Doctors Hospital.

Gaps & Constraints: Donations of milk products (infant formula, other milk, baby bottles, etc.) are being reported in almost all ECs in CDO, in violation of national and international codes and the DOH policy against donations of milk products. No reports of milk distribution have been noted by the City Health Office of Iligan. Overall capacity for nutrition in emergencies, including surveillance, information management and cluster coordination needs to be reinforced. Knowledge of local and international codes on milk distribution remains limited, resulting in rampant milk product distribution especially in CDO.



AGRICULTURE

Needs: According to the latest damage report by the Department of Agriculture (DA) covering six of the seven affected regions, the storm affected a total of 8,100 farmers and fishers and destroyed some 8,064 hectares of crops (mostly rice, corn, vegetables, fruits and root crop) along with 12 hectares of freshwater production and fishponds.

While up to 59 per cent of the crops could recover, an estimated \$7.2 million worth is irreversibly damaged. Restoring lost assets and time-critical agriculture and fishery-based livelihoods is the main priority of the cluster.

Response: In addition to the seed-subsidy scheme launched by DA, the National Food Authority (NFA) provided through the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) and the local government units (LGUs) have provided some 3,737 bags of rice to farmers in the severely affected areas of CDO, Iligan, Bukidnon and Negros Oriental.

Starting on 29 December, FAO and the DA's Regional Field Unit X will be conducting a multi-site, joint field assessment geared towards determining early recovery assistance needs, such as: restoring lost assets livelihoods to some 8,100 farmers and fishers.

Gaps & Constraints: Obtaining a comprehensive picture of damage in the agriculture sector, including number of affected farmers/fishers, and in the livestock/poultry sector remains a challenge, as relevant information for remote areas remains unavailable.



LIVELIHOODS

Needs: Disruptions and impact to livelihoods are strongest felt among the families remaining in ECs. Livelihoods are affected mainly by damage or losses to income-generating assets and properties which

resulted in an abrupt decline of incomes. In addition to damage and loss of livelihood assets, this group has limited social protection coverage, weak access to resources and low levels of savings. Neglecting livelihood assistance will further push this vulnerable group to several life-risk factors and poverty.

To support the overall humanitarian assistance and coordinated cluster approach, livelihood interventions identified include the provision of cash-for-work programmes and support for the restoration or acquisition of livelihood assets. Cash-for-work activities will focus on debris clean-up and restoring temporary shelters.

Concerns for accepting hazardous work among vulnerable groups and the prevalence of trafficking, child labour and gender-based violence are the foreseen risks in affected areas. Another issue that needs to be addressed is the occupational safety and health of workers engaging in cash-for-work activities.

A detailed assessment of livelihoods needs to be carried out in the next 30 days to obtain accurate information on damages and needs of the affected communities and families.

Response: DSWD secured \$650,000 while the Department of Labour and Employment (DOLE) allocated \$230,000 for debris clean-up in disaster affected areas to be conducted under the cash-for-work scheme. Additional \$700,000 has been requested through the UN Flash Appeal to supplement the Government-run cash-for-work programme.

A joint mission is being conducted by the Shelter and Livelihood clusters (27-29 December) to assess the extent of the damage and gather information for response planning and resource mobilization. At the same time, DOLE is conducting a skills and livelihood profiling of families in ECs.

Gaps & Constraints: Information on the impact on livelihoods and employment among affected families remains largely unavailable. Immediate means of income-generation are still lacking, while financial resources to support cash-for-work activities remain insufficient. Greater effort needs to be made to integrate disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation into livelihood recovery interventions.



EARLY RECOVERY

Needs: While attention and resources are still primarily focused on support to the evacuees remaining in ECs, the LGUs and their partner agencies have initiated activities towards the early recovery and rehabilitation needs of the affected areas. Debris clearing and clean-up remain a crucial and continuing concern in all affected barangays.

Response: The city government of Iligan has already identified a total of 11 possible relocation sites for the displaced people, subject to disaster-vulnerability assessments of these areas. The City Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (CDRRMC) is currently working to address the situation of evacuees now housed in school buildings in an effort to ensure that classes can resume in the first week of January.

Initial debris clean-up is being done by the communities with support from LGUs, the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) and volunteers from the Philippine Army. PLAN-International assisted in the clean-up of 12 schools in Iligan, while UNDP is coordinating with the city governments in CDO and Iligan to support the debris clearing and clean-up through cash-for-work programmes.

The regional office of National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) has started the planning process for a damage and loss assessment which will lead to the formulation of a Strategic Action Plan (SAP) for the affected communities in the whole region. NEDA expects to complete the SAP and present it to the Regional Development Council (RDC) by the end of January.

Gaps & Constraints: The resources available for debris clearing and clean-up efforts and equipment such as trucks to carry the debris remain largely insufficient. The lack of water, especially in the most affected communities in CDO, continues to hamper the clean-up activities.



EMERGENCY TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Needs: No emergency telecommunications requirements have been identified to date as most mobile telephone and internet services remain fully operational in CDO and Iligan. Security telecommunications might be required for security monitoring purposes, should the HCT require a sub-office in CDO.

Response: A deployable emergency communication (DEC) is on stand-by with UNDSS for deployment, in case CDO sub-office materializes; while an existing security telecommunications equipment installed in Iligan prior to the event provides support to WFP and UNFPA operations in Lanao del Norte and Lanao del Sur. ICT staff are on stand-by for installation and support on security telecommunications.

IV. Coordination

The Government's Operations Center led by the Office of Civil Defense Region X moved to the DSWD Region X office (Materson Avenue, Lumbia Road, Upper Carmen, CDO) on 28 December. In an inter-cluster coordination meeting chaired by the Government, a senior official in DSWD called all line ministries to ensure effective coordination and information management. DSWD-led clusters will hold coordination meetings at the Operations Center. Agencies looking for office space in CDO are encouraged to establish their presence in the vicinity for easy access.

The Humanitarian Country Team will meet in CDO on 29 December in DSWD Region X office. The HCT will address inter-agency challenges with respect to coordination, inter-agency assessments, resettlement of the displaced, information management and reporting. Key government counterparts, UN agencies, international and local NGOs and donors confirmed their participation.

DSWD Region X, supported by OCHA, will chair the first information management focal points meeting on 29 December at 2 p.m. to take stock of IM capacity and needs. OCHA has offered to provide mapping and information management support to the Operations Center and clusters.

A number of humanitarian agencies are establishing offices in Iligan City in support of the response efforts led by regional and local authorities there. The cluster coordination mechanism will be strengthened in the coming days, with OCHA establishing its presence in Iligan City on 29 December to support inter-cluster coordination and information management.

The HCT clusters met on 28 December to discuss the Shelter cluster's plan to support authorities to transfer evacuees out of school buildings in CDO following the directive of the Government to vacate school buildings by 3 January 2012. The Shelter cluster is working closely with DSWD, and CCCM, WASH and Protection clusters to identify the families to be relocated immediately, the number of shelter units and land space required based on national and international standards, and options for housing.

UNFPA convened the first SGBV-sub-cluster meeting on 27 December with the support of DSWD and the Commission on Human Rights.

Coordination meetings for the CCM, NFI and Shelter cluster are held every other day with the next meeting set for 29 December (time of meeting remains to be confirmed).

V. Funding

Japan pledged \$2 million to the flash appeal and International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies' Preliminary Emergency Appeal. This augments the in-kind contribution of \$320,000 already provided to the Government of Philippines through Japan International Cooperation Agency. The flash appeal receives \$1.5 million to provide food, water supply and support housing repair through WFP and UNICEF.

Flash appeal requirements

\$28.4 million
requested (US\$)

20.3 %
funded

The European Commission Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO) has allocated \$933,000 to the flash appeal to provide emergency shelter support and non-food items through IOM. To date, ECHO has provided a total of €3 million to the Red Cross, IOM and NGOs to provide shelter, food, NFIs, support in WASH, health and psycho-social services and education.

Italy donated 40 tones of blankets, tents, materials for emergency shelters, and water purifiers and containers worth of euro 500,000 (\$653,000) to DSWD. The cargo was airlifted from the UN Humanitarian Response Depot (UNHRD) in Subang, Malaysia to Davao City. Ireland also airlifted its pre-positioned 400 large tents and 15,000 blankets from UNHRD to Davao on 25 December for distribution by Plan-Ireland.

The United States is providing an additional \$800,000 to support emergency relief and early recovery operations by the Philippine Government, in addition to the initial assistance of \$100,000 provided through the US Agency for International Development's Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance.

Australia is providing a total of \$1.3 million of bilateral aid, including \$750,000 to the Philippine Red Cross for shelter and WASH support, \$250,000 to CFSI for psycho-social support and another \$300,000 for distribution of family packs that include sleeping mats, mosquito nets, hygiene kits and cooking sets.

Table 1: Total funding to the Flash Appeal per donor

Donor	Funding (US\$)
CERF	2,980,718
Japan	1,500,000
ECHO	933,333
Spain	360,000
TOTAL FUNDING	5,774,051
UNMET REQUIREMENTS	22,635,608

Source: FTS, OCHA

All humanitarian partners including donors and recipient agencies are encouraged to inform FTS of cash and in-kind contributions by sending an e-mail to: fts@un.org.

VI. Contact

CAGAYAN DE ORO AND ILIGAN: Cluster Co-Lead Contact List

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