Rough
Rapid Assessment Report

on the

Impact of Typhoon “Haiyan”
in the Province of Eastern Samar
Region 8, Philippines

focus in selected villages of the Municipalities of Balangkayan, Hernani, and Guiuan

10-13 November 2013

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Areas:
Municipalities of Balangkayan, Hernani and Guian

I. Background

The “eye” of Typhoon “Haiyan” (local name Yolanda) hit Guiuan, a 1st class municipality south of Eastern Samar and affected at least 7 regions on June 9, 2013. Typhoon Haiyan with winds as strong as 330 KPH caused storm surges along the east coast of Eastern Samar and Leyte. Strong winds and the series of big waves as high as 20 feet in height swept several communities along the coast resulting to 160 deaths and 44 still missing (initial count), billions cost of damages to properties, livelihoods and infrastructures, disrupted delivery of services.

Eastern Samar:

- Politically divided into 22 municipalities and 1 city.
- One of the poorest farming and fishing communities in the Philippines.
- One of the major coconut producing provinces of the country, reported as number 1 in the Philippines.
- Main source of supplies for almost all commodities is Tacloban City, Leyte which is 2-2.5 hours land travel from Guian or 6 hours land travel from Borongan City, the provincial capital.
- Nine (9) of the 23 total towns of the province were considered badly affected by strong winds and storm surges that include Guiuan, Balangkayan, Hernani, Mercedes, Salcedo, Lawaan, Balanginga, Quinapondan and Giporlos.
- The total affected population is 30,500 families or 152,500 individuals in 13 affected municipalities located south of the province.
- Totally damaged houses is 3,911 excluding Guian record.
- Coconut farming, fishing and rice farming are the main sources of livelihoods of the people. There is no available information on the estimated cost of damages and losses. Affected LGUs and other government agencies are pre-occupied by relief and search and rescue operations.
• Major roads and bridges were temporarily closed for at least 4 days due to fallen trees and electric posts. Road clearing is underway along the Maharlika highway from north to south of the Samar Island.
• Communication and electric power are down that interrupted the operation of banks and other service providers even in Borongan City, the province capital. Borongan City is the only major market so far that is functioning apart from Catbalogan City (Western Samar) as other alternative sources of supplies but relative far;
• Food shortage especially rice is already felt in the whole province that already affected Catbalogan City;
• Fuel shortage is also hampering the mobility of the people and the humanitarian workers and the local government units (LGUs). Price of fuel by small retailers went up to 50%. Premium gas from Php 60.00 /liter to Php 120.00/liter, Diesel gas from Php 51.45/liter to Php100/liter.
• Transportation cost also went up for the past 4 days, e.g. Borongan City to Llorente town is now Php 100.00/person compared to Php 50.00/person in normal situation.
• Consolidated report of the extent of the damages and losses in the whole province still needs to be done for future recovery planning.

II. Assessment

A. Food Security

• Availability of Food
Rice, vegetables, corn, root crops, pork and fish are common food of the people before the typhoon but families in the affected areas are now dependent on relief as major sources of food were damaged.

Before the typhoon, families planted a variety of vegetable, rice, corn and combined with fishing activities. Many of the families that engaged in farming and fishing set aside portion of the harvests and fish catch for their family consumptions while others are sold within the community, adjacent communities and local public market.

Significant numbers of households raise domestic animals primarily for their consumption. Common livestock include ducks, chickens and pigs, and other have goats and carabaos. Families buy other food needs in the local public market.

• Effects of Typhoon Haiyan and Storm Surgen on Food Availability
An average of 99.5% of the sources of food and income were damaged that include coconut, rice, corn and vegetable farming, corals and undetermined hectares of mangrove areas along the coast of the province.

In Balangkayan, cost of damages to agricultural crops was estimated to Php 30 million. Other affected LGUs still need to undertake assessment to determine the extent of damages specifically to agriculture as major economy of the province.
According to residents engaged in farming, rice is scheduled to be harvested this November. Though some were able to harvest rice, they were swept away by water as high as 20 feet together with their properties. Long term rehabilitation of farms is also a concern as farm lands were submerged in sea water and other debris. On the other hand, fishing boats and gears were destroyed that affects the capacity of families to catch fish for food consumption.

- **Access to Food**
  Families in the community survived by means of food relief from government (during the period). Many families said that they already received food pack from the LGU with 2 kilos of rice and 3 cans of sardines. Drinking water is being supplied through water tanker from the Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP)-Borongan City specifically in Hernani town.

Public town markets as common source of food supply and other basic necessities are totally destroyed and not functional. Even if market will resume in the near future, people don’t have the purchasing capacity to access food and other supplies as their main sources of income were totally destroyed.

**B. Public Health**

**Water Situation**
- All the municipalities visited have level II and level III sources but distribution lines were broken;
- People now fetching water from hand pumps available in the area but only for washing because of salty taste caused by sea water intrusion during the typhoon;
- The Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) based in Borongan City is doing water distribution for drinking but not enough and the process of collection and storage of the people is prone to contamination;
- In Balangkayan, the LGU is now doing technical assessment on their damaged water system as basis for the rehabilitation plan.
- In Guiuan, 1 out of 4 pumping stations is working. There is information that ICRC committed to support the rehabilitation of the water system.
- There were already reported cases of diarrhea in Hernani and Guiuan towns though medical teams are already in the affected areas mainly stationed at the Municipal Operation Center.

**Needs:**
- Clean water for ready drinking
- Water kits to ensure proper storage and treatment of water
- **Water treatment facility while water system is not functioning**

**Sanitation**
- Due to damage houses and toilets, people now resorted to open defecation;
- Rubbles and other debris are scattered all over the place and dead bodies around their place. In Barangay Batang, Hernani, only 8 bodies were recovered and residents suspected that 20 more bodies are buried around their community, apart from dead animals
- Added to this are domestic wastes that are piled around and government has still no plan for disposal. However, people started to clean their respective place.

**Needs:**
- Temporary/semi permanent latrines
- Repair of home-based toilets
- Equipment for environmental clean-up

**Hygiene**
- Washing of clothes and bathing can be observed along rivers and stream;
- Women are bathing openly
- Generally, Barangay Health Workers (BHWs) are present in all barangays with knowledge and experience on hygiene promotion.

**Priority Needs:**
- Water kits (for storage and hyposol for treatment)
- Sanitation equipment for community clean up

**B. Shelter**

Most of the houses in the coastal barangays are made of light materials such as lumber, bamboo and nipa though some houses were made of concrete but these were totally washed out by the storm surge.

In Guiuan, though many houses were destroyed by strong winds, majority of the families staying along the Poblacion centers preferred to stay and started to fix their damaged homes while those with totally damaged houses stayed in schools as evacuation centers.

In Hernani and other towns, people tried to build makeshift houses made of salvaged materials and some acquired limited number of tents for roofing.
Priority Needs:
- Cooking utensils
- Sleeping mats
- Mosquito nets
- Blanket
- Tarpaulins for temporary roofing and wall cover

C. Community Social Organizations

Apart from the Barangay Councils and the BHWs, there are community-based organizations that also exist such as farmers’ primary cooperatives, youth organizations, the Pastoral Councils of the Roman Catholic and other informal organizations.

Generally, Barangay Councils are active looking at the situation of their constituents. One Barangay Official claimed that they responded to the call of the government for pre-emptive evacuation before Typhoon “Haiyan” hit Visayas but did not expect of the huge waves and strong winds that swept their communities.

D. Women, Men and other disadvantaged sector

Generally, both women and men share roles in coping with everyday living even before the destruction of “Typhoon Haiyan”. Men and women parents including some members of the families are working together in cleaning and some working to build makeshift houses for shelter.

Though children, persons with disabilities (PWDs) and the elderly have their respective special needs, there is limited data that need to be considered in the immediate future.

III. Government and Non-Government Organizations’ Response

After five (5) days of the disaster event, limited agencies can be seen responding to the needs of the affected communities.

- The LGUs concerned are the main actors doing relief operations such as food relief with the support of the Provincial Government of Eastern Samar
- BFP Borongan City doing water tankering.
- The Philippine Army (AFP) taking care of the security and support on vehicles in transporting relief items.
• Private Contractors doing repairs of the national road (even before the typhoon), immediately did clearing operations of fallen trees. Likewise, Teams from the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) can also be seen doing clean up operations.
• SAMELCO (Samar Electric Company) also started to fix power lines in some municipalities but not in those hardest hit by the storm surge and typhoon.
• PLAN International, OXFAM and ICRC are humanitarian organizations sighted in the affected areas doing assessments during the period. PLAN International already distributed 300 tarpaulins and jerry cans in some communities of Balangkayan and targeted 7,000 households for hygiene and water kits. OXFAM with HRC representative also distributed 228 bottles (6.6 liters) to 200 families in Barangay Batang, Hernani.
• Philippine Red Cross is also doing food distribution to various areas through the municipal LGUs concerned
• DSWD region 8 has already sent their Team in Guiuan to support the operation of the municipal government.
• The Diocese of Borongan, civic groups and individuals also donated relief mainly food, clothing and water but limited in scope compared to the number of affected households.

IV. Recommendations

Based on the gaps and plan of various actors, the recommendations are the following:

Life saving needs:
1. Augment/sustain the limited food assistance initially done by government.
2. Tarpaulin for cover, sleeping mats and mosquito nets.
4. Sustain water rationing, water treatment facility along water sources and distribution of water kits.
5. Hygiene Promotion.

Sustenance:
6. Support the resumption of local markets or creation of emergency markets to affected municipalities. Related to this, cash for work (CFC) can be explored for community clean up.
7. Provide alternative sources of livelihood to those with damaged means of livelihoods (Fishers and farmers).
8. Recommend to MHO/Sanitary Engineers to conduct water quality surveillance/monitoring.

All proposed interventions should be coordinated with the local government units and Clusters concerned for information sharing and complementation of efforts.
IV. Challenges in the Operation of the Aid Agencies

- Availability of fuel for operation.
- No power and communication.

V. Target Priority Areas

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Municipality</th>
<th>No. of Brgys.</th>
<th>No. of H.Holds</th>
<th>No. of Pop.</th>
<th>Proposed Interventions</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hernani</td>
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<td>7,500</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guiuan</td>
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<td>2,000</td>
<td>10,000</td>
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Sources:

PDRRMO-Eastern Samar
MDRRMC Balangkayan, Hernani, Guiuan
Barangay Council of Batang, Hernani
Barangay Health Workers
Provincial WASH Cluster
Survivors