

This report is produced by OCHA in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It was issued by OCHA Philippines. It covers the period from 6 to 10 August 2012. The next report will be issued on or around 15 August.

I. HIGHLIGHTS/KEY PRIORITIES

- The weather is improving in the northern Philippines after five days of heavy rains brought by the Southwest Monsoon, aggravated by Typhoons Saola and Haikui, according to the Government.
- More than 2.4 million people have been affected by the rains.
- About 362,300 people have evacuated to 729 evacuation centres and an additional 284,200 people are staying with relatives and friends.
- The Government is leading the relief operation and has not requested international aid so far.

II. Situation Overview

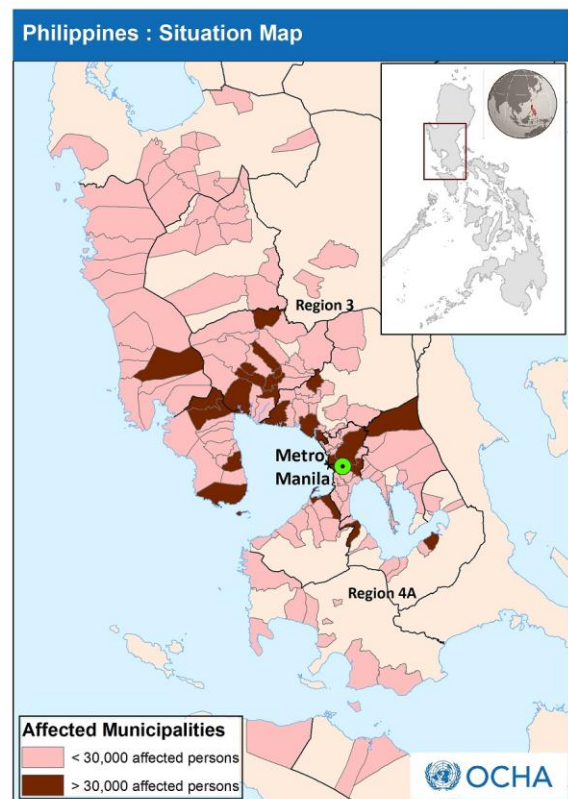
Emergency relief operations are now taking centre stage in northern Philippines as floods begin to recede after five days of heavy rainfall. This follows large scale evacuation and rescue efforts triggered by the heavy Southwest Monsoon rains that were aggravated by Typhoon Saola (locally known as Gener) and then by Typhoon Haikui. The national weather bureau, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA), lifted the rainfall warning signal over Metro Manila on 9 August. It forecasts a gradual improvement of weather across the affected areas for 10 to 12 August.

More than 2.4 million people in Luzon and Visayas have been affected by the Southwest Monsoon rains that severely flooded 95 cities/municipalities, causing landslides, according to the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC). Sixty have died (at least 14 women and 18 children), 5 injured and 7 are still missing.

There are 362,307 people in 729 evacuation centres that are located in schools, gymnasiums, and public buildings, and an additional 284,200 people who sought refuge in the homes of relatives and friends. These figures have risen with each day as detailed information is released by local authorities. (See table for key figures regarding this disaster.)

Since 5 August, respective local authorities have led the evacuation, rescue and relief operation with the support from key disaster management agencies at the national and regional levels. The Government's current priorities are the conditions in the evacuation centres, particularly to respond to the health and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) needs of the evacuees.

Also of concern are the low-lying areas especially in Region III (e.g. Bulacan, Pampanga, Zambales and Bataan provinces) where floodwaters are known to recede slowly. Some of these areas have already been flooded for two weeks since Typhoon Saola. The Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Cluster is in the process of identifying evacuation sites that are expected to host the evacuees for an extended period.



By 10 August, 17 local government units (LGUs) in the National Capital Region (NCR) and Regions III, IV-A and IV-B have declared a state of calamity. There has been no indication that a national state of calamity will be declared, and the Government has not requested international assistance to date. According to the NDRRMC Operations Centre (OpCen), offers of assistance, including from private organizations, will be accepted.

Table 1. Government figures on affected people and damage to houses

Region	Affected persons	No. of ECs	Persons inside ECs	Partially Damaged Houses	Totally Damaged Houses
NCR	343,193	351	212,511		
Region I	99,055	8	823	71	7
Region III	1,520,082	246	82,752	403	26
Region IV-A	422,911	120	65,688	2,271	332
Region IV-B	22,011	4	533	3	1
Region VI	34,883	0	0	8	3
TOTAL	2,442,135	729	362,307	2,756	369

Source: DSWD Disaster Response Operations Monitoring and Information Center, 10 August 2012.

The Philippine Red Cross (PRC), NGOs, UN agencies and partners are supporting government's response efforts in the most affected areas. The main focus is on food, non-food items, health and WASH assistance.

PAGASA reported that the Southwest Monsoon rains recorded 323 mm of rainfall in the first 24 hours from 6 to 7 August. Tropical Storm Ketsana (locally known as Ondoy) in 2009 recorded 24-hour rainfall of 455 mm, a scale that caused devastating flashfloods. This experience likely raised the communities' awareness for greater preparedness in Metro Manila and resulted in a more swift evacuation during this emergency.

III. Humanitarian Needs and Response



CAMP COORDINATION/MANAGEMENT AND NON-FOOD ITEMS

Needs: There are 362,307 displaced people residing in 729 displacement sites across five regions in Luzon, which is an increase by 87,683 IDPs from the previous day's report. Most of the newly-displaced were reported in Metro Manila.

The CCCM Cluster, through the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), is working with local authorities to determine the needs in the evacuation centres. Camp management capacity at the local government level is also being assessed to determine appropriate response. The Education Cluster observed that critical needs of school-based evacuees include sleeping materials and warm clothes.

Response: Efforts are underway to safely evacuate families who continue to be affected by the floods, especially in areas outside of Metro Manila. DSWD is supporting LGUs in the delivery of food packs and essential relief items to the IDPs and other flood victims.

The Cluster is gathering, consolidating and reporting information on the location of and situation inside displacement sites. A web-based map of the evacuation centres is also being finalized. The reports and link to the map is available on the cluster website at <http://ph.one.un.org/response/clusters/cccm/index.php>.

DSWD is deploying social workers to augment camp management capacities in larger evacuation centres and the sites that are expected to accommodate IDPs for an extended period. The CCCM Cluster is deploying Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM)/CCCM Teams in NCR and Regions III and IV-A to roll-out the DTM.

Gaps & Constraints: The generation, analysis and release of timely information on the needs and gaps in the evacuation centres remain a challenge: IDPs continue to arrive at IDP sites, and camp managers and local officials are still occupied with the delivery of emergency relief items. It is expected that in the next few days, more information will be made available from the partners.



WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE

The priority for the WASH Cluster is to ensure adequate access to safe drinking water and appropriate number of properly maintained sanitation facilities in evacuation centres in areas that continue to be flooded and those with a history of prolonged displacements. Proper hygiene is a major concern especially in very crowded evacuation centres where skin diseases have already been reported.

The Government has mobilized private sector support to ensure the provision of safe drinking water in all evacuation centres.

Cluster partners have mobilized assessment teams to ascertain the needs of IDPs, both inside evacuation centres and in communities where some decided not to evacuate, prioritizing areas with a history of prolonged displacements that will require sustained aid (e.g. Metro Manila, Laguna, Pampanga, Bulacan, Marikina, Bataan, Rizal and Cainta). Hygiene kits and promotional materials should be disseminated to remind and educate IDPs both inside and outside of evacuation centres.



HEALTH

The Surveillance in Post-Extreme Emergencies and Disasters (SPEED) system has been activated with 35 participating health facilities. Most common causes of consultations are reportedly acute respiratory infections, fever, wounds, skin diseases and high blood pressure. Three suspected leptospirosis cases have been reported in Bataan; 14 cases of acute watery diarrhea and a suspected measles case reported in Metro Manila. Offices of the Centres for Health Development in affected regions have been advised to activate SPEED in their areas.

Medicines and supplies have been provided by the Department of Health (DOH) to augment regional health offices in affected areas. DOH has set up its Command Center in East Avenue Medical Center and called a cluster meeting on 8 August. WHO is providing human resource and technical support to DOH-Health Emergency Management Staff.

The Reproductive Health Working Group members are undertaking multi-cluster rapid assessments with a focus on sexual and reproductive health. The assessments target evacuation centres in NCR and Regions III, IV-A and IV-B. The findings will be available by early next week.

Further, the Reproductive Health humanitarian consortium composed of the Family Planning Organization of the Philippines (FPOP), Save the Children, Zone One Tondo Organization (ZOTO) and PRC are ready to deploy quick response teams to conduct medical missions and information sessions as soon as needs ascertained through assessments.

UNFPA has initially prepositioned 10,000 dignity kits for distribution to women of reproductive age particularly pregnant and lactating women with the PRC, 2,000 kits with ZOTO and 3,000 kits with FPOP.



FOOD

Needs: The Food Cluster aims to provide food to some 2.1 million flood-affected persons being assisted in evacuation centres or those who have sought refuge with friends/relatives.

Response: On 7 August, DSWD accepted an offer of assistance from WFP to provide food to the most affected communities. Since then, WFP has dispatched a total of 52.5 metric tons of high-energy biscuits (HEBs) to alleviate short-term hunger of 262,500 vulnerable persons in Regions III, IV-A and NCR. In addition, 4.5 metric tons of ready-to-eat Plumpy'doz have been transported from Mindanao (Cotabato City) to Manila to benefit 6,200 children between the ages of 6 and 23 months (also see Logistics Cluster).

While the Food Cluster has not been officially activated, all Food Cluster members have been contacted in an effort to coordinate assessment and relief efforts. The Cluster will continue to work with DSWD, LGUs and other clusters to ensure that appropriate food items reach the most vulnerable people in a timely manner.



NUTRITION

Needs: The number of children, pregnant and lactating women in need of nutrition-related support is being determined. Assessments are being planned and undertaken by Save the Children International and ACF.

Response:

- A blanket distribution of 3 metric tons of PlumpyDoz to children 6-59 months in NCR is ongoing.

- Vitamin A supplementation is ongoing in evacuation centres through Centres for Health Development (CHDs). Multiple Micronutrient Powder distribution for children 6-59 months is planned for Regions III and IV-A.
- Infant and young child feeding in emergencies (IYCF-E) guidelines have been shared with CHDs and evacuation centres in Regions III, IV-A and NCR for better management of nutrition response.

Gaps & Constraints:

- IYCF needs strengthening in evacuation centres to ensure adequate support to breastfeeding mothers and young children, and donations of infant formula and other milk are avoided. Donations of infant formula have not been reported so far yet some food rations have been reported to include milk powder.
- Some of the IYCF counselors being mobilized are themselves victims and their movement is restricted due to flooding. Some areas are also not accessible.



EDUCATION

A total of 224 schools are being used as evacuation centres serving over 32,000 families (150,000 individuals). Overall, about 5.4 million school children have been affected in terms of week-long class suspension, flooding and disruption owing to influx of evacuees in their schools (Department of Education (DepEd) Rapid Disaster Assessment Report as of 9 August).

DepEd, Save the Children and World Vision have conducted site visits and rapid assessment in the most heavily affected areas (NCR, Region III and Region IV-A) to determine priority sites for intervention or provision of educational emergency supplies. UNICEF has prepositioned school packs and other emergency supplies, which will be distributed to identified priority sites. Inter-cluster coordination with Camp Management, Protection and WASH Clusters is being considered.

The Cluster observed that child friendly spaces have not been set up in most of the evacuation centres. Schools need clean-up kits. Pre-positioned back-to-school kits may not be sufficient.



CHILD PROTECTION

Child protection cases such as separated and unaccompanied children are pending verification. Social workers are currently focussed on the delivery of immediate relief. The Child Protection Working Group will meet on 10 August to discuss the situation of affected children.



AGRICULTURE

Losses to agriculture in Regions I, II, III, VI, and the Cordillera Administrative Region due to damages from the Southwest Monsoon rains and the preceding Typhoon Saola amounts to Philippine peso 152 million (\$3.6 million), according to the Department of Agriculture's report of 7 August. The loss of rice in terms of volume is about 0.2% of the projected yield for the affected regions. Most of the rice and corn production areas are expected to recover. Damage to fisheries has also been minimal at \$54,500 (PhP2.3 million), majority of which was reported in Pangasinan and Cagayan provinces in Regions I and II. The Cluster members remain on standby to assist with post-disaster needs assessment, jointly with the government and humanitarian counterparts.



LOGISTICS

Needs: The Logistics Cluster aims to support the humanitarian community to deliver assistance to some 2.1 million vulnerable persons seeking refuge from widespread and severe floods in evacuation centres and staying with relatives or in makeshift shelters. The cluster also assists in the delivery of relief goods to those in flooded areas which remain difficult to reach.

Response: On 7 August, DSWD accepted WFP's offer of logistics support. Since then WFP-contracted trucks have been transporting relief supplies from DSWD National Resource Operations Center warehouse in Manila to Regions III, IV-A and within NCR.

Over the first three days of response, WFP dispatched 21 trucks carrying government relief supplies (i.e. family packs, blankets, rice, etc.) and a total of 52.5 metric tons of WFP HEBs. In addition, 4.5 metric tons of

Plumpy'doz have been transported from Cotabato City to Manila via Philippine Airlines free of charge. (Also see Food Cluster.) The Cluster continues to work with OCD, DSWD, LGUs and other clusters to ensure that relief goods can be dispatched and delivered promptly.

Gaps & Constraints: The road from Pampanga to Bataan is inaccessible for transport of relief goods.



TELECOMMUNICATIONS

No damages to electricity and telecommunications infrastructures have been reported although commercial power has been shut-off in certain flooded areas as a precautionary measure. Communications services including telephone landlines, mobile phones and internet services are all operational and accessible.

Security communication particularly the MotoTrbo VHF radio is fully operational and covers the affected regions including NCR, Region IV-A (Batangas, Laguna, Cavite, Rizal) and Region III (Pampanga, Bulacan, Bataan, Zambales).

Local and regional information and communications technology (ICT) experts are on standby for immediate deployment to support humanitarian aid operations.

IV. Coordination

The NDRRMC OpCen is the centre of humanitarian coordination for the government at the national level. The NDRRMC held an emergency meeting with the President on 7 August, which was followed by an inter-cluster coordination meeting for key government clusters.

The Philippine Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) is supporting government leads and partners: CCCM, Education, Food, Health, Reproductive Health, Logistics, Nutrition, Child Protection, SGBV and WASH. Agriculture, Early Recovery, Livelihoods, Shelter and Telecoms are on standby.

At its monthly meeting held on 9 August, the HCT reaffirmed that it stands ready to support the government in areas of multi-sector rapid needs assessments if requested. Meanwhile, PRC and a number of NGOs are undertaking assessments across the affected areas.

V. Funding

The Department of Budget and Management reported on 7 August that the Calamity Fund has a balance of PhP5.95 billion (\$141.8 million), which can be released to national government agencies to support response and rehabilitation efforts. The Fund has an annual budget of Philippine peso 7.5 billion (US\$178.8 million).

The IFRC launched its Preliminary Emergency Appeal on 9 August, seeking Swiss franc 992,700 (\$1 million) to support the PRC to assist some 75,000 people for 5 months with emergency relief.

On 7 August, the United States Government announced its intension to provide \$100,000 for immediate relief assistance in Metro Manila.

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

Cluster co-lead contact list

Cluster	Agency	Focal Point	Mobile	Email
Agriculture	FAO	Aristeo Portugal	0917-857-7363	Aristeo.Portugal@fao.org
CCCM and NFI	IOM	Dave Bercasio	0908-865-4546	dbercasio@iom.int
Early Recovery	UNDP	Alma Evangelista	0917-893-3706	alma.evangelista@undp.org
Education	UNICEF	Maria Lourdes de Vera-Mateo	0917-867-8352	mldevera@unicef.org
Food	WFP	Michelle McGonagle	0917-571-3157	michelle.mcgonagle@wfp.org

Health	WHO	Gerardo Medina	0908-863-3163	medinag@wpro.who.int
- Reproductive Health	UNFPA	Florence Tayzon	0917-859-3520	tayzon@unfpa.org
Livelihoods	ILO	Nori Palarca	0917-712-0314	pararca@ilo.org
Logistics	WFP	Dragoslav Djuraskovic	0917-829-3175	Dragoslav.Djuraskovic@wfp.org
Nutrition	UNICEF	Paul Zambrano	0919-230 5865	pzambrano@unicef.org
Protection	UNHCR	Rico Salcedo	0918-836-5705	salcedo@unhcr.org
- Child Protection	UNICEF	Jess (Jesus) Far	0917-860-7443	jfar@unicef.org
- SGBV	UNFPA	Florence Tayzon	0917-859-3520	tayzon@unfpa.org
Shelter	UN-HABITAT	Christopher Rollo	0920-548 3899	chris.rollo@undp.org
Telecommunications	WFP	Arnel Penaverde	0917-882-7498	Arnel.Penaverde@wfp.org
WASH	UNICEF	Rory Villaluna	0917-859-2578	roryvillaluna@yahoo.com

Please contact:

Manila/Cotabato City: Muktar Farah, Officer-in-Charge, OCHA Philippines
muktar@un.org, +63-917-587-8179

Manila: Maria Agnes Palacio, National Disaster Response Advisor, OCHA Philippines
palacio@un.org, +63-917-552-8413

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