

PHILIPPINES : HAIYAN TYPHOON EXTERNAL UPDATE #4

17 November 2013

Photograph : Tecson Lim



UNHCR
The UN
Refugee Agency

Highlights

The number of people affected by Typhoon Haiyan is now estimated at 13 million, including some 3 million displaced. This includes people having lost their homes, looking for family members, converging toward hubs where aid is available (Tacloban, Ormoc, Guiuan) or heading toward the country's main airports in an attempt to join family members or fly out of the country.

- UNHCR is distributing emergency relief items in and around Tacloban and estimates having reached approx. **15,000 people** so far.
- **Road pipeline** : trucks carrying blankets, plastic sheeting, sleeping mats, jerrycans, hygiene kits and mosquito nets as well as kitchen utensils from our Cotobato/Mindanao warehouse continue arriving in Tacloban, with six trucks already arrived and 6 more on their way. Distribution of these items is ongoing.
- **Airlift** : two planes have landed in Cebu, third plane landed in Manila due to congestion at Cebu airport. Their cargo have been offloaded and are being moved onwards to Tacloban by ferry or by trucks and barge.
- The **UN Emergency Relief Coordinator Valerie Amos** has requested UNHCR to airlift an additional 5,000 tents, 50,000 plastic sheetings, 500 plastic rolls 48,000 blankets to cover outstanding critical needs. The request was made after close consultation with IFRC in its capacity as shelter cluster lead as well as other shelter partners. This will come over and above what UNHCR is currently mobilizing (5,000 tents, 16,000 plastic sheetings, 500 rolls of plastic sheeting, 16,000 kitchen sets, 46,000 blankets, 32,000 jerrycans).

Funding

In response to the UN Emergency Relief Coordinator Valerie Amos' request, UNHCR has increased its total requirements to **USD 15 million**.

Confirmed contributions	USD
Norway	510,899
Japan	2,000,000
Private Sector	1,700,000
CERF	3,000,000
Total confirmed	7,210,899

Current requirements are **48% funded**.

Main developments

- The UN is creating two **hubs** in the east and west of the main island, in **Ormoc** (Leyte Province) and **Guiuan** (Eastern Samar Province), both areas seriously affected by the typhoon. Clusters would be initiated in both locations. UNHCR will be sending a team to each location on 18 November. Each team will consist of 1 Intl protection staff to co-ordinate protection, one national field staff, 1 driver and 1 car. There is an airport in Ormoc so non-food items can be delivered to both Tacloban and Ormoc.
- Main logistical hub remains at **Cebu** in Cebu Province. First point of delivery for UNHCR aid has been at **Tacloban** in Leyte Province. The main focus of UNHCR's aid continues to be on **Leyte** (including Tacloban and Ormoc), **Guiuan and the Eastern coast of Samar Province** (all east of Cebu) as well as **Panay** island (Roxas), west of Cebu).

Airlift—summary of items sent

Below is a summary of items that have reached Cebu on the first three flights + trucks from Cotabato. Six more flights are scheduled in the coming days.

Summary of sent items:

QTY	DESCRIPTION **
47,400	Blanket, Fleece Medium Thermal
20	Emergency Travel Kit
3,000	Family tent
1,400	Hygiene Kits
18,000	Jerrycan, Semi-collapsible 10L
1,176	Kitchen Sets
20	Mosquito Net Dome
600	Mosquito Nets
300	Plastic roll, 4 x 50 M
17,400	Plastic Sheet, 4 x 5 M
1,900	Sleeping Mats

Additional items scheduled to be sent in the next six planes include : 66,000 blankets, 7,053 tents, 50,000 plastic sheets, 16,274 jerrycans, 700 plastic rolls, 16,000 kitchen sets, 9,000 solar lanterns and 5 vehicles.

Staff deployments / re-deployments

Below is a summary of international and national deployments / re-deployments to date

	Total staff deployed	In Manila	In Cebu	In Tacloban	Elsewhere
UNHCRPhilippines	28	16	5	6	1 (Davao)
International emergency roster deployments	8	1	3	4	
Locally hired	16 (in process)				

International deployments include : 4 Protection staff incl. Snr. Protection Cluster Lead, Admin/Programme, Supply, External Relations and Public Information staff.

In addition to the above, 2 international emergency roster staff are on their way (Information Management and Supply), and 7 additional support staff are being identified for deployment, with an emphasis on protection staff.

UNHCR currently has : 19 staff in Manila, 9 staff in Cebu, 6 staff in Tacloban and 1 in Davao plus 5 in Cotabato.

Protection Cluster

The Protection Cluster held its first meeting in Manila on 15 November (see External Update #3 for details of issues identified as high priority issues). The next Protection Cluster meeting is scheduled to be held this week.

- Two deployees from OHCHR have arrived in Manila in support of the Protection Cluster.
- The national Gender-Based Violence Sub-Cluster held its first meeting to discuss the GBV situation and responses. The disruption of services, including referral mechanisms, is expected to affect some 3 million women and girls of reproductive age.
- UNFPA and the Government's Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) are finalizing the setting up of Women-friendly spaces.
- The Child Protection Working Group (CPWG) has set up its regional counterparts in affected regions.
- The CPWG distributed over 200 registration forms for Separated and Unaccompanied Children in Tacloban City.
- The CPWG established 10 Child-Friendly Spaces with psychosocial activities in 13 barangays (smallest local government unit/villages) in Roxas City.
- Dwindling supply of fuel and limited trucks in Tacloban City hamper the speedy delivery and distribution of protection kits.

Aid distribution

UNHCR is coordinating with the government, WFP and other agencies, as well as bilateral aid providers, to ensure that aid effectively reaches the affected populations as soon as possible. Urgent steps are being taken to unblock current bottlenecks, such as the crossing from Luzon island to Northern Samar as well as the dispatch from Cebu to Tacloban, in particular through renting of additional barges and trucks. Below are some of the actions undertaken to decongest Cebu airport and dispatch aid as quickly as possible:

- Four trucks arriving from Cotobato have carried fuel, rope and 100 mattresses; some have been handed over to the DSWD staff who were sleeping on the floor. Six more trucks are expected to leave on Monday.
- In Cebu, on 16 November UNHCR loaded 11 trucks with 1,400 tents to depart for Tacloban. 10 trucks were to be loaded with tents and other relief items on 17 Nov.
- The Philippine military has placed 10 trucks at UNHCR's disposal to help move humanitarian supplies from Cebu to Tacloban. They are expected in Cebu on 17 Nov.
- UNHCR donated 24 drums (200 liters each) with fuel to WFP, which will allow them to transport food out of Tacloban.
- UNHCR delivered 15 tents to DSWD staff in Tacloban, who had also been affected by the disaster. Tents were brought in by Swedish C130.
- 59 tents, 1,165 tarpaulins and 120 blankets were transported from Cebu to Tacloban on Australian C130.
- On 17 Nov. 500 Meals-Ready-to-Eat are expected to arrive, a donation from France to support relief workers on the ground.
- UNHCR is expecting the private donation of 1,000 chain saws to be given to DSWD for clearing out roads from uprooted trees and other debris.

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