

PHILIPPINES : HAIYAN TYPHOON EXTERNAL UPDATE #1

11 November 2013

Photograph : Tecson Lim



Highlights

Typhoon Haiyan has hit the Philippines on 8-9 November, leaving 9.5 million people affected.

UNHCR's emergency response focuses on:

- 1) Immediate needs in emergency items including: plastic sheeting, jerry cans, kitchen sets, blankets and plastic mats for 16,000 families and 5,000 family tents, to supplement the Shelter / CCCM / NFI clusters respectively;
- 2) Protection response including coordination of the Protection Cluster, as a co-lead and in support of the Department of Social Welfare Development (DSWD) of the Government of the Philippines

Deployments: initial 7 staff from UNHCR emergency roster to be deployed to Manila and 4 hubs: Cebu, Roxas in Kapiz province, Tacloban in Leyte province and Basuanga in Palawan province.

Funding

An inter-agency Flash Appeal (under OCHA auspices) is currently being drafted.

UNHCR's immediate financial requirements are : USD 10 million

As an immediate measure, UNHCR has unblocked USD 3 million from its operational reserve.

Main developments

- **Beneficiaries:** Estimations are that over 9.5 million peoples are affected by the Typhoon Haiyan in 9 regions across the Philippines. Some 619,000 persons have been displaced, of whom 435,700 persons are in 1,458 evacuation centres established by the Government. UNHCR will target 16,000 families with shelter and non-food items.
- **UNHCR's Protection role:** At the request of the Resident Coordinator / Humanitarian Coordinator and following inter-agency agreement, UNHCR has accepted to co-lead the Protection Cluster in support of the **Department of the Social Welfare Development (DSWD)**. The main objective of UNHCR's engagement is to assist the DSWD and other relevant authorities, such as Human Right Commission, in establishing a protection cluster mechanism in the affected areas, providing them also with expertise and technical support to address protection issues. UNHCR will assist the Government in ensuring that a system is in place for displaced populations to have access to civil documentation and essential services, and address issues such as lighting and security, psycho-social support and other forms of community outreach.
- **Staff deployments :** UNHCR is deploying a Senior Protection Cluster Coordinator together with an emergency response team, consisting of Protection Officers, External Relations Officer, and Logistics and Admin/Program officers. Additional staff will be deployed as the needs assessment progress. These staff will be based in Manila and in 3-4 hub locations (Cebu, Roxas in Kapiz province, Tacloban in Leyte province, and Basuanga in Palawan province) for an initial period of 2-3 months.
- **Relief items:** UNHCR is dispatching emergency relief items including tents, plastic sheets and other core relief items in coordination with the Government and Emergency Shelter Cluster.



Photograph : Tecson Lim

Situation Background

- On 8 November 2013, Typhoon Haiyan (locally known as Yolanda) made its first landfall in the eastern Samar province of the Philippines. It made subsequent land falls in Leyte province, Cebu Province, Iloilo Province and Palawan province.
- The magnitude of the impact of the Typhoon Haiyan is unprecedented in the country . Vast geographical areas affected by the Typhoon across the islands add to the complexity of assistance efforts on the ground. The Government capacity had been already stretched before the typhoon Haiyan, having dealt with a succession of serious disasters and displacements since September, starting with the Zambanga displacement and the latest earthquake in Bahol.
- On 9 November, the Government of the Philippines welcomed international assistance. The Cluster system has been activated and the UNHCR was designated as the co-lead of the Protection Cluster based on the request of the RC/HC and inter-agency consultations. Note that in the Philippines, all the clusters are led by the Government with the respective agencies as co-lead.
- UNHCR currently has two offices in the Philippines, Representation in Manila and Field Office in Cotabato, Mindanao, mainly dealing with conflict-related IDP situations in Mindanao, as well as urban refugee and stateless issues in Manila. Initially a presence is being established in Cebu.
- On 9 November, the Humanitarian Country Team headed by UNDAC was deployed to Tacloban City of the Leyte province and also Iloilo City of Iloilo province (UNHCR was not part of these initial assessment missions). Given the logistics/communication challenges on the ground, the assessment is at a very initial stage and information is incomplete. However, it is clear that the level of devastation is enormous and that humanitarian needs on the ground are significant in all sectors. The UN Country Team / Humanitarian Country Team has decided to move ahead with a response plan while the needs assessment is ongoing.
- Local government authorities with the support of the national government are leading the humanitarian response to the Typhoon affected areas. As per the available information, the Government has started to deliver food, water and other relief supplies, though limited in the quantity and the accessible areas. It is reported that several other agencies have deployed or will deploy their emergency staff as well as relief items. Some INGOs are also deploying their staff and delivering relief items. Bilateral assistance has also been provided /offered by a number of countries, including the military assistance.

Financial requirements

- The Humanitarian Country Team, under the coordination of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), plans to issue a Flash Appeal in the next two days. In addition to the commitment of support already expressed by several donors, the Emergency Relief Coordinator is expected to make a CERF Rapid Response Grant available.
- UNHCR plans to submit its initial requirements of US\$10 million, as follows:
(Note: a family size of 5 is used for the calculation purpose)

NFIs and Shelter: Up to US\$6mil including transport

Plastic tarpaulins, Plastic Rolls, Jerry Cans, Blankets, Kitchen Sets and Plastic mats for 16,000 families / 80,000 persons (to be shipped from the stock in Dubai).

Family tents for 5,000 families / 80,000 persons (to be shipped from the stock in Dubai).

Solar lanterns as protection support: Up to US\$2 mil including transport for 50,000 families/communities (international procurement)

Deployments of Protection cluster staff and support staff/cost and establishment of hubs: Up to US\$2 mil.

On 10 November, the UNHCR' Assistant High Commissioner has authorized an immediate allocation of US\$ 3 mil from its Operational Reserve (OR) to enable the immediate deployment of core relief items.

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