



Philippines Typhoon Haiyan Emergency: KEY PROTECTION MESSAGES

Existing vulnerabilities exacerbated and specific needs emerging:

The people in the Philippines have had to face a series of natural disasters of unprecedented scale. Typhoon Haiyan's intensity and destruction has devastated the lives of millions of people. With glaring scarcity of basic services and essential items, such as food, water, shelter and blankets, and the destruction of much of the infrastructure, most people are struggling to access humanitarian assistance. The specific needs of persons at particular risk, for instance, elderly, infants, pregnant women or disabled people, need to be prioritized during this critical phase of the emergency to ensure that they have equal access to appropriate services and assistance.

Physical security and prevention of abuses:

There is urgent need to support the Government's efforts in restoring law and order and ensuring effective physical protection against violence and criminal behaviour. This includes taking concrete steps to prevent sexual violence, exploitation and abuse of those most at risk, including children. Of concern are distribution centres and transit areas/ evacuation centres where desperate people gather to receive assistance, resulting in increased tension and potential violent altercations.

Increasing Displacement:

At the moment hundreds of thousands are unable to return to their homes and are stranded without the usual support of communities which themselves are displaced, separated, and fractured. Displacement is a compounding challenge for women, children, indigenous people and older and/or disabled persons, exposing them to extreme weather and threats from a deteriorated security environment.

Please consult the [GPC Website](#) for regular updates by the Protection Cluster in the Philippines on critical needs of displaced and affected persons.

Current Updates from the Protection Cluster in the Philippines responding to Typhoon Haiyan Emergency:

[Protection Cluster in Cebu Haiyan Typhoon Update No. 3](#)

[Protection Cluster in Cebu Haiyan Typhoon Update No. 4](#)

[Protection Cluster in Cebu Haiyan Typhoon Update No.5](#)

These messages have been produced by the Global Protection Cluster: This is a public document which may be widely circulated to media, donor and key partners for dissemination. Further messages will be developed in close consultation with the Philippines Protection Cluster responding to the Typhoon Haiyan emergency. For more information please contact: the Global Protection Cluster Support Cell at gpc@unhcr.org.