

# Typhoon Odette Aftermath

## Emergency Situation Report

Reporting Period: 18 December–19 December, Issue No. 1

### CURRENT SITUATION

The aftermath of Typhoon Odette in Mindanao has been devastating, particularly in the Caraga Region. As of 19 December 2021, around 77,000 families (approximately 298,000 persons) were affected by the typhoon as it wreaked havoc on 531 barangays across the five provinces of the region. Some affected populations who pre-emptively evacuated have already returned home, but others whose houses were partially or totally damaged continue to stay in evacuation centers. Of the total reported affected population, around 66,000 families (approximately 255,000 persons) have sought refuge either inside evacuation centers or in home-based settings. DSWD Caraga shared that this figure is expected to increase as they await the transmittal of a complete report from Siargao and the Dinagat Islands. A total of 796 out of 1,040 evacuation centers (77%) are open in the entire region as of the writing of this report (DROMIC, 19 December 2021, 12PM).

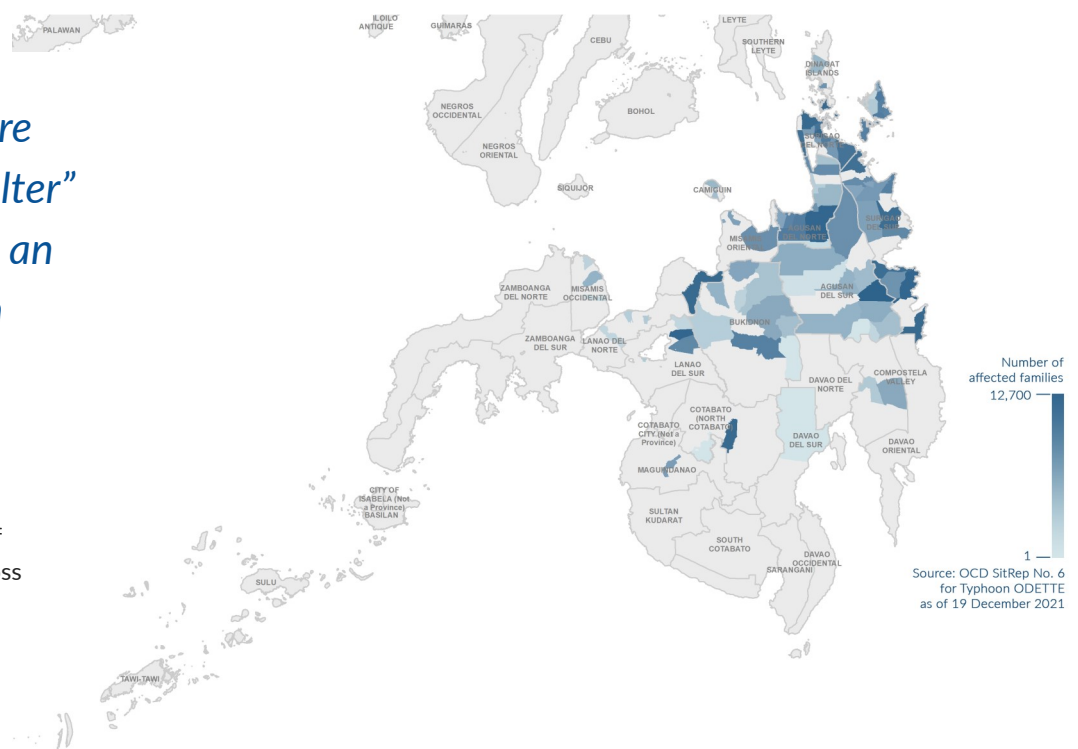
The overall humanitarian response in the Caraga region has been a challenge due to various factors. Lifelines such as electricity, road networks, mobile signal, and internet access

are down, particularly in many parts of Surigao del Norte and Dinagat provinces. Apart from this, the stockpile of relief goods is inadequate to cover even the first round of distribution to all severely affected communities. Support augmentation is highly needed. Also, as most of the local government units at the barangay and municipality/city level are also affected, their capacity to respond immediately to their constituents has been greatly crippled.

The cluster approach has been activated and the Office of the Civil Defense is leading the regional Emergency Operation Center (EOCs) based in Butuan City. Provincial-level EOCs have also been activated to better manage the response. In Surigao City, the City Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council is leading the city-level EOC. While the EOC at the regional level is fully up and running with the active participation of regional level government agencies, EOCs at the provincial and city-level, particularly in Surigao del Norte, need further strengthening through operational and technical support.

*“Our urgent needs are food, water, and shelter” shares an IDP inside an evacuation center in Surigao City.*

► Map 1: Geographic distribution of typhoon-affected population across Mindanao as of 19 December



# PROTECTION ISSUES AND NEEDS



## ACCESS TO LIFELINES

1. The immediate restoration of communication networks would facilitate transmittal of information and help speed up the response.
2. The immediate restoration of electrical power lines would help ensure the safety of affected communities.
3. Continued clearing operations of remaining debris in coastal areas would improve access and remove obstacles to humanitarian response.



## ACCESS TO SHELTERS / NON-FOOD ITEMS

1. Government structures such as barangay halls and health centers are damaged. Assessment and documentation of totally and partially damaged houses are still ongoing.
2. Residents shared that there is a shortage in the supply of corrugated metal sheets and tarpaulins, as well as labor for shelter construction and repair.
3. The physical safety of residents who put up temporary makeshift shelters along the highway is at risk.
4. Absence of lighting in evacuation centers (ECs) and home-based settings exposed IDPs, especially women and children to greater protection risks.
5. The lack of room partitions in ECs exposes vulnerable members, such as women and girls, to gender-based violence.
6. Camp coordination and management is one of the urgent priorities.



## ACCESS TO FOOD AID AND NUTRITION

1. Immediate and sustained provision of food assistance to severely affected populations is critical as prepositioned food packs remain limited to date and could last only for few days.
2. Apart from Siargao and Dinagat, food assistance should also prioritize the severely affected coastal municipalities connecting Surigao Del Sur and Surigao del Norte provinces.
3. Warehousing support is needed by the DSWD in Surigao City.



## ACCESS TO HEALTH

1. Preventive health care is disrupted as health facilities are also damaged.
2. Assessed IDPs are no longer wearing masks and practicing social distancing. Coupled with the congestion in evacuation centers, the possibility of contracting COVID-19 is high. In terms of vaccination, not all assessed IDPs are fully vaccinated. Second dose administration is still underway, however it is uncertain if this will continue given the damage to health facilities and vaccination sites such as gymnasiums.
3. Psychosocial support is needed among social workers and the affected population.



## ACCESS TO WATER AND SANITATION

1. There is a shortage of potable water in Surigao City. IDPs and residents are now buying mineral water at a higher cost, which is a concern especially for those with limited financial resources. Long queues to purchase potable water have been observed.
2. Some families rely on rainwater for domestic use. As observed, residents have been taking baths in the open, exposing women and girls to greater risk of sexual assault.



## ACCESS TO LIVELIHOOD

1. As most of the business establishments in the city are damaged, the employment of residents has been greatly affected. With the resulting financial constraints, affected populations rely heavily on humanitarian response.



## ACCESS TO EDUCATION

1. Schools are damaged but are still being utilized as evacuation centers. This poses risks to IDPs' safety and security. Debris clearing is necessary.



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*“Lifelines are down and these have slowed down our response to the most affected particularly in the islands,” shares DSWD Caraga.*

► Picture 1: UNHCR together with DSWD Caraga assesses the transport modalities to Siargao and Dinagat islands to fast track the delivery of humanitarian assistance.

## HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE



Two days after the landfall of the typhoon, UNHCR immediately deployed its Emergency Response Team to Caraga Region to provide technical and operation support to the government particularly the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD). The team is spearheaded by the Head of the Field Office together with two technical staff on protection and information management. Coordination meetings were immediately conducted with the Assistant Regional Director for Operations of the DSWD Caraga and the Office of the Civil Defense in the Emergency Operation Center in Butuan City to gather the latest data and protection situation of the displaced population.



Based on the official request of the DSWD Caraga, UNHCR augmented support through the provision of core relief items composed of 1,000 solar lamps, 1,000 mosquito nets, 1,000 4x5m plastic sheets with eyelets, fire retardant, and 200 4x50m reinforced plastic tarpaulins. These items are intended to serve the severely affected islands in Siargao and Dinagat as well as the coastal municipalities in the mainland of Surigao del Norte province. Coordination with the Philippine Port Authority was conducted to assess transportation modality. The team is planning to distribute these core relief items as soon as possible together with the food packs of the DSWD.



As a co-lead of the Protection Cluster, UNHCR is providing technical support to DSWD on protection coordination and information management. It continues to promote the centrality of protection in the overall humanitarian response. A dedicated cluster meeting is underway to gather protection actors working in the region and ensure the complementarity of their efforts.



On the other hand, through its project partners all over Mindanao, UNHCR is also closely monitoring the impact of the aftermath of the typhoon in other parts of Mindanao.

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For more information, please visit the Protection Cluster website <http://www.protectioncluster.org/philippines> or email us at [PHICOPRC@unhcr.org](mailto:PHICOPRC@unhcr.org).