

# STY Rai (Odette) Aftermath

## Emergency Situation Report

Reporting Period: 27-31 December 2021, Issue No. 3

### CURRENT SITUATION

It is more than two weeks after the landfall of super typhoon Rai (locally known as Odette) and the number of the affected population reported continues to increase. As of 31 December 2021, an increase of 63% or 102,000 families has been noted in the counting of the affected population from the previously reported 163,000 families on 24 December 2021. The same trend has been observed in the displaced population with a noted increase of around 64% or 16,000 families from the previously reported 25,000 families in 510 evacuation centers and an unknown number in home-based settings and makeshift shelters.

The first multi-cluster rapid needs assessment was conducted simultaneously in Siargao and Dinagat islands. UNHCR and its project partners namely ACCORD and CFSI participated in the activity. In Siargao, at least 45 percent of the total population (around 16,000 families / 53,000 individuals) were displaced of which around 8,000 families (29,000 individuals) have sought temporary shelters across 156 evacuation centers. Another 8,000 families (24,000 individuals) opted to stay in home-based settings with relatives and friends. In terms of damages, it is estimated that 90 percent of the farmland and crops were damaged, while 80 percent of the houses were either partially or totally damaged. Data showed that more than 24,455

houses were damaged as of the time of assessment. Of this, 35 percent (8,576 houses) were partially damaged, and 65 percent (15, 879 houses) were destroyed. While it reported that some IDPs have not yet received food assistance from the government and other humanitarian providers, the majority of the assessed municipalities did not report food insecurity in general but issues on their safety and security are their major concerns in their displaced location.

In Dinagat island, the extent of damage is also severe and humanitarian response remains difficult. All facilities in the province are fully damaged even the local government offices like in the assessed barangay of Quarenta in San Jose Municipality. There are no evacuation centers, but the local government has set up a makeshift hospital with 13 doctors. All COVID-19 protocols have been lifted. Several batches of vaccines were expired because there are no means to keep them refrigerated. The transportation of relief goods continues to be challenging due to the limited number of vessels/trips and high transportation costs. Since the province is cut off from the rest of the provinces, the supply of commodities is also affected and prices have gone up four times higher (e.g. a kilo of onions now sells for Php 320 (USD 6.42) which is previously sold at USD 3.6).

*“Our house was destroyed by the typhoon. Most of the household materials and equipment are also gone. In as much as we want food, our immediate need is shelter so that we will be able to return in our place of origin and start rebuilding our lives back to normal,” shares one of the assessed IDPs in Siargao island.*

▶ Conduct of Rapid Protection Assessment with IDPs in Siargao island. © WFP/ Rolando Uy



# PROTECTION ISSUES AND NEEDS

*\*in addition to previously reported issues*



## DISPLACEMENT MOVEMENT TRACKING

1. Lack of system in the registration and tracking of the displaced population. Across the evacuation centers in Siargao and Dinagat islands, there is no systematic process yet in registering the IDPs. This concern may result to unequal distribution of assistance, chaos between and among the IDPs and service providers. Mechanism in tracking the IDPs who voluntarily return to their places of origin is yet to be established. This may also post a challenge in providing durable solutions.



## CHILD PROTECTION / GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

1. The lack of protective measures in the evacuation centers may heighten the risks of GBV, particularly to women and girls.
2. In some of the evacuation centers, there are significant number of children left by their parents either unattended or no adults to care or provide guidance. Their reason is that both parents are out to fall in line for food aid or do extra works to sustain their day-to-day living.
3. Children and young minors used the damaged school building, school chairs, and debris as playground and other objects as toys which is detrimental to their safety. In one of the evacuation centers, at least 10-12 young boys and girls were playing with "boga" (an improvised canon). According to the authorities, playing with an improvised canon may cause injury or even death.



## ACCESS TO SHELTERS / NON-FOOD ITEMS

1. Provision of non-food items, kitchen sets, blankets, mats, and mosquito nets is recommended, particularly among those whose houses have been completely damaged, and those whose belongings have been washed away.
2. Trash and other debris in the evacuation center have not yet been cleared.
3. In Siargao, IDPs who are temporarily living in the evacuation centers have no proper lighting, no partition, no access to potable water, lack of sanitation facilities, no separate comforts room for men and women, no camp management, no communal spaces, and lack of kitchen utensils. There are also rooms that are occupied by 3 to 4 families with 4 to 7 dependents. Aside from privacy issues, their health conditions are also at risk due to lack of observance to COVID-19 protocol.



## ACCESS TO LIFELINES

1. While power restoration is ongoing, both the displaced and affected population especially those in remote and island communities are needing alternative lights like solar lamps and generators.
2. Logistics support to facilitate the speedy delivery of support to Siargao and Dinagat island as well as in island barangays of Surigao City still needs strengthening



## HOUSING, LAND AND PROPERTY (HLP) ISSUES

1. Some IDPs expressed their concerns that most of the Municipal Local Government Units will not allow some displaced families living in the shoreline or coastal areas to return to their places of origin. With the limited information, IDPs raised that there should be proper consultation involving them as they do not want to leave their habitual residences.



## ACCESS TO EDUCATION AND INFORMATION

1. Schools have been used as evacuation centers despite the initial reports indicating that schools and other public buildings have been also damaged. Local school authorities have also reported damage to furniture, learning resources and computer equipment.

# PROTECTION ISSUES AND NEEDS

*\*in addition to previously reported issues*



## ACCESS TO FOOD AID AND NUTRITION

1. In Siargao and Dinagat islands, some families expressed that they have not received one-time food distribution neither from the government and humanitarian organizations. However, there are some families in some evacuation centers who have received multiple food packs from the government and other private donors.
2. There are concerns on duplication of assistance provided due to lack of coordination between the government and other assistance providers. One of the government representatives expressed that there are some donors who do not coordinate at the provincial and municipal level. This concern shows that it has affected some of the displaced families who resort to negative coping mechanism such as consumption of less nutritious food, reduction of food consumption, or diversion of other household equipment to food. Evidently, the displaced families are heavily dependent on food aid from the government.



## ACCESS TO HEALTH

1. Both displaced and affected families in assessed areas in Siargao and Dinagat have expressed growing concern over possible diarrhea outbreaks due to limited access to potable water.
2. Some IDPs also raised their concerns on the insufficient medical supplies and support which includes medicine, health kits, and other primary health care.
3. At the barangay level, especially those located in coastal and inland areas, significant concerns include lack of medical personnel such as midwives and nurses and weak support mechanisms due to the unavailability of signal/internet in the areas.
4. Majority of the displaced families stated that most of the members of their family do not possess COVID-19 vaccination cards. Some of the displaced families expressed that they are still hesitant to be vaccinated due to lack of information on the effect and its added value. Since the time of displacement, some families expressed that they rarely go to health center due to lack of money to buy medicine and the abrupt increase in the cost of transportation.



## ACCESS TO WATER AND SANITATION

1. Access to potable water is a major concern among the displaced population in assessed areas in Siargao. Majority of the IDPs expressed that their source of water comes from unprotected source of water such as water springs and open-well. There is potable water for sale and available in some locations, but some IDPs cannot afford to buy. Notably, there was an increase in the prices of water per container or gallon. In some evacuation centers, there are flowing water sources, but IDPs need to fall in line in getting the water. Furthermore, there are deep concerns about diarrhea outbreaks in many of the displaced location. At least, 50 individuals experienced have been reported to have suffered of diarrhea.



## ACCESS TO LIVELIHOOD

1. Livelihood activities and sources of income of IDPs have been severely affected. In coastal and island barangays of Surigao City fishing implements were damaged and lost during typhoon making it difficult for them to recover.
2. Daily wage-earners are greatly affected too as firms and companies temporarily halted their operations. As a result, affected families are relying to aid from the government and humanitarian agencies.

*This is one of the classrooms in San Benito National High School damaged by Super Typhoon Odette in San Benito municipality, one of the island municipalities in Surigao del Norte.*



► © UNHCR Philippines / Rasul A. Kulat

## HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE



UNHCR, as the Protection Cluster co-lead agency, supported the DSWD Caraga in conducting the first Tri-Cluster (Food/NFI, CCCM, Protection) Coordination Meeting on 21 December 2021 in Butuan City which was attended by various government and humanitarian agencies. It was chaired by the DSWD Caraga Regional Director OIC Ramel Jamen himself with the presence of Undersecretary Felicisimo Budiongan. The meeting provided the opportunity to orient cluster partners on the organizational structure of DSWD Caraga in responding to this emergency. Also, this provided the avenue for partners to share updates and plans during the brief breakout session of the three clusters. In the end, DSWD Caraga agreed to conduct a regular meeting, every Wednesday.



UNHCR, per request from the office of the Assistance Regional Director of DSWD Caraga, conducted an orientation and briefing of the Tri-Cluster IM System to some representatives from their Quick Response Teams (QRT) and Planning & Reporting Team on 30 December 2021. The Tri-Cluster IM System will serve as the one-stop-shop platform of up-to-date data and information related to the Super Typhoon Odette Response with inputs from responding organizations and agencies, both from the government and non-government / humanitarian sectors.



UNHCR together with DSWD Caraga, ACCORD, and the city government of Surigao City provided core relief items to two of the severely affected island barangays of Surigao City on 23 December. A total of 300 families from the barangays of Lisondra and Buenavista received core relief items package consisting of mosquito nets, plastic tarpaulins, and solar lamps. The assistance complements the food assistance from Care International through ACCORD as well and the food packs and water provision from the DSWD Caraga. The support was well received by the displaced and the affected population who are currently dwelling in partially damaged evacuation center and residential houses. On the other hand, a total of 11 island barangays benefitted from the 4mX50m reinforced plastic sheets that could serve as temporary shelter covering especially for communal spaces.



UNHCR participated in the multi-cluster rapid needs assessment on 27–29 December 2021 in Siargao island. ACCORD and CFSI also participated in the assessment as well.

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For more information, please visit the UNHCR Philippines website—[www.unhcr.org/ph/typhoon-rai-odette](http://www.unhcr.org/ph/typhoon-rai-odette) or email us at [PHICOPRC@unhcr.org](mailto:PHICOPRC@unhcr.org).