

STY Rai (Odette) Aftermath

Emergency Situation Report

Reporting Period: 01 January–10 January 2021, Issue No. 4

CURRENT SITUATION

The estimated total affected population in Caraga Region due to Super Typhoon Rai (locally known as Odette) has increased to 54% as of 9 January 2022. From the previously reported 163,000 families, the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) reported around 357,000 families (approximately 1.4 million persons) in 997 barangays in 67 municipalities and 6 cities in the region. The increase is attributed to the slight improvement in the communication network in severely affected provinces in the region which enables the transmittal of reports from the field. Many have returned home already but documentation of the actual number remains to be determined. While others have gone home, the displaced population whose houses were severely damaged remain to find themselves in makeshift shelters and evacuation centers. As of this report, 6% of the total affected population or 22,000 families (approximately 76,000 persons) were reportedly displaced. Around 14,000 families (approximately 51,000 persons) are temporarily sheltered in 280 evacuation centers. While 8,000 families (approximately 25,000 persons) are being hosted by their relatives and friends. The report further states that there are a total of 161,342 houses damaged by the typhoon, 41% of which are completely damaged and 59% are partially damaged.

Three weeks after the super typhoon wreaked havoc in Mindanao, humanitarian support continues to be high, particularly in coastal and island communities which continue to face challenges on access to lifelines. The local

government units of the affected municipalities particularly in the Siargao and Dinagat islands have continued to have difficulties in transmitting reports. Evidently, the number of affected populations continues to increase almost a month now since the landfall. On the other hand, challenging logistics arrangement continues to hamper the speedy delivery of services resulting in some IDPs receiving minimal support. As per an update from the WFP, logistics is coming back to normalcy but remains a concern in the island communities.

Meanwhile, the coordination efforts by the government as complemented by the United Nations and other humanitarian actors are making some progress. The regular meeting has resulted in the establishment of structures and systems that aim to harmonize collective efforts and streamline reporting processes. While efforts are made to ensure the effective and timely delivery of the humanitarian response, the pandemic continues to pose health risks to responding agencies and workers. During the mission, there are reports on new cases of COVID-19 in Siargao island as per the CHR report, and that the LGU may impose strict travel restrictions in the coming days. The Provincial Inter-Agency Task Force will convene to discuss the issues and concerns about COVID-19 responses. Further, the DOH Caraga will be issuing a memorandum on the travel requirements of humanitarian workers coming to the Caraga Region.

"Electricity in Siargao Island is still being restored and it may take months before we will go back to normal and have lights. These solar lamps will definitely help to keep us safe. This will protect us from harm specially during night time" narrates a mother of two.

► © UNHCR Philippines / Elson Monato
07 January 2022, Siargao Island



PROTECTION ISSUES AND NEEDS



ACCESS TO FOOD AID AND NUTRITION

1. For over twenty days after the typhoon struck the island, food aid is still one of the most pressing needs expressed by the displaced and affected populations. The provision of food from the government and humanitarian agencies is relatively sufficient in some municipalities but the majority still clamor for a sustained ration of food since their livelihood activities have been hampered and their capacity to purchase food has decreased. Most are still dependent on relief assistance from the government, private entities, and individuals.
2. Despite the required price freeze due to the declaration of State of Calamity in the region, the prices of basic commodity prices have gone up to 30 to 40 percent. In the municipality of Del Carmen of Siargao island, there is a substantial water price increase from Php15.00 (0.29USD) to Php50.00 (0.97 USD) per gallon. The prices of fish and meat at the market have also increased. Residents attributed the price spikes to increase in transportation costs.



ACCESS TO HEALTH

1. The Department of Health (DOH) in Caraga is continuously providing health services in the mainland of Siargao, with the support coming from the different regional offices of DOH through the augmentation of doctors and nurses deployed in the affected municipalities such as in Carmen and Burgos. They also provide psychosocial support sessions to affected children. However, there is a lack or minimal support provided in the island barangays of Siargao as compared to those in the mainland. These barangays can be accessed through motorized pump boats and at times difficult to access if the weather condition is not good, hampering the deliveries of aid and services.
2. On COVID-19 preparedness, Caraga Hospital is the only hospital admitting COVID-19 patients as most of the hospitals were damaged by the typhoon and can no longer accommodate cases.
3. There are also monitored cases of leptospirosis in mainland Surigao del Norte. Also, there is a need for supplies of tetanus toxoids for treating those who sustained wounds during the typhoon.



ACCESS TO LIVELIHOOD

1. The farmers and fisherfolks are the sectors whose livelihood activities have been negatively affected. Fishing is the main source of income for most of the residents in the island barangays of Dapa Municipality and other adjacent towns. But their fishing activities were hampered as their fishing implements like boats were damaged or got lost because of the typhoon making it difficult for them to recover. Conversion of damaged coconut trees into lumber as temporary shelter support is one of the proposed livelihood opportunities for the affected population as per the FAO report.



ACCESS TO SHELTERS / NON-FOOD ITEMS

1. While food continues to be a need, in terms of prioritization, most of the assessed displaced and affected families expressed shelter as the top priority as of this report.
2. Tension among the displaced, affected population and local government was observed in some municipalities in Siargao island due to unequal distribution of support. In the municipality of Santa Monica, a person who did not receive shelter support allegedly filed a complaint at the police station for not being included in the shelter materials provision. The support institutions should ensure meaningful access of the target recipients that are in proportion to their needs without discrimination. As much as possible, provisions and donations should meet the number of families in need of the intervention.



HOUSING, LAND, AND PROPERTY (HLP) ISSUES

1. HLP related issues have started to emerge as the aftermath of the super typhoon continues to put the displaced and affected population in dire condition. In General Luna Municipality of Siargao island, 39 families are living for over ten years near the creekside at Poblacion 3 who are at risk of forced eviction. Accordingly, the land that they are occupying is public land, but a land claimant had informed them that it is titled under his name and they are no longer allowed to rebuild their houses in the areas where their houses are erected.

PROTECTION ISSUES AND NEEDS



ACCESS TO WATER AND SANITATION

1. Access to potable water remains a problem as water sources have not yet been fully restored. Most of the affected residents continue to buy water at water refilling stations but with the price increase, this will not be a sustainable alternative. The Department of Health (DOH) collected water samples for analysis in different affected areas and the results show that most of the tested water sources have the presence of E.coli and coliform.
2. UNHCR has raised the protection issues on the price increase of water being sold. Per DOH, the price increase is linked to the absence of electric power as most are using generator sets. DOH urges for the restoration of the local water system or may request the LGUs to provide generator sets to the established associations (water maintenance) in different communities however, LGU has a limited budget to address this.



ACCESS TO LIFELINES

1. The community lifeline services are still being restored. As the super typhoon toppled down the power supply in all affected areas, the electric cooperatives in different parts of Mindanao have been rendering their support to Siargao Electric Cooperatives (SIARELCO) for the immediate restoration of the electric power in the island. Although there are well-off families who are financially capable of procuring generator sets for their use, the majority can only procure low-cost flashlights and solar lamps for their use.

UNHCR continues to put premium in providing protection and life-saving assistance to the most vulnerable sectors and persons with specific needs including this group of elderly in one of the island barangays in Dapa Municipality of Siargao Island who benefited from UNHCR's Core Relief Items.



HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE



The Tri-Cluster Coordination Platform (Protection, Food and NFI, and CCCM) led by the DSWD that was organized with the support of UNHCR is now integrated into the DSWD-led Regional Disaster Response Committee (RDRC) that holds its regular meeting every Wednesday. UNHCR also supports the existing platform that is the Regional Inter-Agency Committee on Anti-Trafficking-Violence Against Women and Their Children (RIACAT-VAWC) and Regional Child Protection Working Group (RCPWG) with highlights on IDP Protection cum International Humanitarian Assistance that holds its regular meeting every Monday. UNHCR also participates in the different cluster meetings being called by the government lead.



The UNHCR initiated Tri-Cluster Information Management (IM) System has been adopted as the official repository of all Odette-related data and information from all 11 clusters that DSWD is leading and monitoring. DSWD on 30 December issued Advisory No. 17 highlighting the utilization of the said Tri-Cluster IM System as the Response Cluster IM System. The system can be accessed from this [link](#). UNHCR IM specialists conducted a dedicated training about the system with the DSWD-RDRC technical staff. UNHCR will be coordinating with the other IM experts from other clusters to help maintain the IM system with the DSWD.



UNCHR and CHR conducted a joint protection monitoring in the island of Siargao on 7-8 January 2022. The team coordinated with local government units on UNHCR CRIs that were provided through the DSWD. Also, UNHCR joined the IDP team of DSWD that was deployed in different affected areas to conduct monitoring and psychosocial support.



As part of UNHCR's advocacy and protection mainstreaming work, it has been able to encourage the government to issue protection advisories to address pressing protection concerns. The DSWD Caraga issued an advisory on the prohibition of begging to cite the provisions in the Anti-Mendicancy Law.



The first Mindanao Humanitarian Team meeting for Caraga response was conducted in the first week of January. Cluster co-leads including UNHCR for Protection reported on the needs, responses, and gaps.

UNHCR is very grateful to donors who have provided contributions directly to the Philippines operation and to donors who have provided softly earmarked and unearmarked contributions to the organization: Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States of America.

UNHCR is also thankful for the support of private donors from the following countries: Australia, Germany, Italy, Japan, the Philippines, Republic of Korea, Spain, Sweden, and United States of America.

For more information, please visit the UNHCR Philippines website—www.unhcr.org/ph/typhoon-rai-odette or email us at PHICOPRC@unhcr.org.