

Introduction

On 20-25 January 2014, IOM's Donor Relation Division in Geneva and IOM's Country Office in the Philippines, hosted a delegation of donors for a one-week tour of IOM's activities in the country as well as of IOM's Administrative Centre in Manila. The itinerary for this visit is attached as Annex 1a.

The intent of the visit was to raise awareness of the various areas of intervention that IOM undertakes in the Philippines, to demonstrate in-country capacity and coordination with both the IOM Regional Office, Headquarters, the government and local partners, and to highlight gaps that remain to be addressed.

The week included visits to five provinces that bear witness to IOM's humanitarian response to the complex emergencies affecting the country, as a result of both natural and man-made (conflict) disasters. The delegation was exposed to the diversity of IOM's emergency and early recovery mandates in the country. Furthermore, the delegation had the opportunity to meet with several local partners with whom IOM implements its diverse project portfolio.



20 January: Opening Session Mandarin Oriental Hotel

The visit began with an **Opening Session** held in the early evening of 20 January. **IOM Manila Chief of Mission, Marco Boasso**, gave a broad overview of IOM's programmatic work in the Country Office ranging from humanitarian emergencies, migration health, migration and development, labour migration, counter trafficking, and assisted voluntary return and reintegration. CoM Boasso also briefed the delegation on the services that the Manila Administrative Centre provides for IOM's operations worldwide in the areas of finance, human resources, information technology, procurement, and online communication, among others.

Guest speakers to the Opening Session included Secretary Corazon Soliman of the Philippine Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) and Luiza Carvallho, UN Resident Coordinator to the Philippines.



Secretary Soliman expressed appreciation for IOM's partnership with the DSWD and for its rap-

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id, effective and efficient response. *“IOM is one of the few agencies who walks the talk, understands the culture of those they work with and respects it, and considers the partners on the ground”.*

In her view IOM has always tried to respond to DSWD’s needs rather than independently advising on what needs to be changed.

Secretary Soliman thanked IOM for the continuous support and stated that she looks forward to continuing partnerships in 2014.

Luiza Carvalho reported that the UN and IOM have been working closely together. She reiterated IOM’s cultural sensitivity (citing IOM’s Zamboanga response as an example). She said that the Secretary General was very appreciative of IOM’s response and support for the Haiyan emergency during his visit in December.

She made the case for additional funding for the CCCM cluster in the Haiyan response and hoped resources will be mobilized to support IOM’s work in contribution to the overall humanitarian response.



21 January: IOM Manila and the Manila Administrative Centre

In the morning, the delegation paid the IOM Manila Country Office a visit (See Annex 2 for an powerpoint presentation of the Manila Administrative Centre (MAC) and the IOM Manila Country Office) to be briefed by the respective Unit Heads

on the global services provided by the IOM Manila Administrative Centre. A demonstration was provided by the IOM PRISM Team showing donor funding analysis dashboards. (See Annex 3 for a summary of the services offered by the Manila Administrative Centre).

Relevant Unit Heads also provided an overview of the activities of the Manila Country Office under the following thematic areas: Labour Migration and Migration & Development, Emergency Preparedness and Response, Counter-trafficking and Assisted Voluntary Return, Migration Health and Cultural Orientation (see Annex 4 for a summary of the activities pursued under these thematic areas).

Tacloban, Leyte—Haiyan Response

Under the IOM Haiyan Response, IOM has established hubs in Tacloban, Ormoc, Guiuan, Roxas, and a logistics hub in Cebu.

The delegation arrived in Tacloban late in the afternoon. As the plane approached the city, those with window seats got an aerial view of the devastation in the city. Passengers disembarking from the plane walked into a typhoon-devastated airport.



In Tacloban, IOM’s operations include the management of displacement through Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM); the distribution of emergency and recovery shelter kits and non-food items (NFI), the conduct of work-



shops to raise awareness on protection issues; and the provision of protective and health services to those affected by the typhoon. By the end of January 2014, the Tacloban hub has served almost 10,500 households with emergency shelter kits, over 2,500 households with NFIs, and over 4,000 households with recovery shelter kits.



At IOM's temporary office, IOM staff from Tacloban familiarized the group with the local context, an overview of the issues and humanitarian needs in Tacloban, and IOM's work (see Annex 5 for a copy of the presentation and Annex 6 for an update of the IOM Tacloban Hub). Ample time was provided for Q&A.

Day one concluded with a visit to the **Radio Abante community radio station** to observe IOM staff and shelter experts participate in a live interview that touched on beneficiary selection, no-build zones, safe construction, etc. The radio station is part of a Communicating with Communities (CwC) network supported by IOM that will soon include a call center and platform to process and

share feedback from the community that is relevant to the reconstruction effort.

22 January: Tacloban (cont.)

First on the agenda was a briefing on the sites that the group will be visiting in Tacloban and the work that IOM has done in these sites.



Following the briefing, the first site visit was to the **Astrodome Tent City** where 458 families were temporarily living. The Astrodome is the largest evacuation center in all of the Haiyan-affected areas.



At the Astrodome, the group had a chance to be briefed and to have a Q&A session with DSWD Camp Manager, Alice Viason. She related that IOM is providing camp management support in areas of family registration, community organizing, and facility upgrading. Upgrades to-date in-



clude putting up family privacy partitions and building bathing cubicles, cooking counters and garbage bins (three photos above).

Posters to raise awareness on human trafficking were also prominently displayed around the site and along the streets (see Annex 7 for a sample of information material distributed).

The next site visit was to **barangays 84/87** to see the result of IOM's recovery shelter repair kit dis-

tribution. On the drive over to Barangays 84/87, the group witnessed the still-evident destruction of infrastructure (next two photos).



Barangays 84/87 were the first barangays assisted by IOM at the request of the Tacloban Mayor's office because they were hardest-hit by the typhoon. This pilot project involved staff from Shelter/CCCM in mapping 10 per cent of the barangays using the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM).



The last site visit in Tacloban was to the **Leyte Normal University Evacuation Centre** in Barangay 49. Here, there was an on-going training on building typhoon-resistant shelter (as part of disaster risk reduction efforts) underway in preparation for the distribution of recovery shelter kits to 25 beneficiary households. (See Annex 8 for the handout distributed to training participants on building back safer shelters).



The group also saw a sample of DSWD's Disaster Assistance Family Assistance Cards (DAFAC). Information on this card validates the status of the affected families and serves as reference for the provision of additional and appropriate intervention/s required per family.

At this site, the group met with Barangay Captain Marshana Talbo who expressed her appreciation for assistance provided to residents within her barangay.



Guiuan, East Samar—Haiyan Response

IOM in Guiuan is the CCCM Cluster co-lead as well as the Shelter Cluster co-lead. Its operations focus on the management of displacement through CCCM; rehabilitation and repair of evacuation centres; distribution of emergency and recovery shelter kits, and NFIs; chainsaw and tablesaw operations; disaster risk reduction trainings to typhoon-affected populations. IOM's Recovery Shelter programme in Guiuan consists of transitional shelter and shelter repair. The latter is made up of the following three coherent activities: training on safe construction, milling of coco lumber, and distribution of shelter repair kits.

The three-hour drive from Tacloban to Guiuan afforded the group with a view of the changing landscape showing metropolis-ravaged Tacloban to tree-stripped Guiuan.



Guiuan is the municipality where Typhoon Haiyan made its first landfall on 8 November 2013. It is a coastal fishing town located on the southernmost tip of Samar Island.

The Guiuan visit started with a briefing at IOM's temporary office, facilitated by IOM colleagues from the Guiuan hub. The briefing provided an overview of the impact of the typhoon on Guiuan and neighbouring municipalities (e.g., Mercedes) and IOM's response to the needs of the affected population (see Annex 9 for Guiuan Hub Update).

First up in the Guiuan visit was a ride to nearby Mercedes municipality where the group witnessed IOM's "chainsaw operation". A total of 30 chainsaw operators working under IOM's **Debris-to-Shelter activity** cut up felled coconut lumber to be used for shelter construction. By the roadside are saw mills, which process the cut-up timber.

The typhoon felled hundreds of thousands of coconut trees in these areas. People from these municipalities are used to constructing shelters from coco lumber, but do not necessarily have the resources to cut and process the wood. IOM's Debris-to-Shelter activity seeks to provide useable lumber to victims of the typhoon. IOM's operation includes chainsaws worked by experienced operators who cut the coco lumber into manageable pieces. IOM also has larger table saws to process the wood into useable lumber after being cut by the chainsaws. The activity is reaching full scale enabling the processing of large quantities of coco lumber. IOM is working closely with the Philippines Coconut Authority and DSWD on this project.

The "debris-to-shelter" activity forms only one pillar of IOM's recovery shelter programme. The other two pillars are materials (recovery shelter kits) distribution, consisting of corrugated iron roofing sheets, nails and tool kits; and training on safer construction (specifically bracing and other typhoon-resistant construction techniques).

The combination of these three activities form the basis of **IOM's Recovery Shelter programme**, which aims to provide beneficiaries with the materials, tools and knowledge they need to advance self-recovery.



Having seen the “debris-to-shelter” pillar, the group was driven to a nearby open basketball court to have a look at the distribution of recovery shelter kits to families living in the municipality of Mercedes.



In Guiuan, the government has also started to build bunkhouses for the displaced population and had requested IOM’s help in improving conditions. The next visit was to the **Surok Bunkhouse** where the group was able to walk around the bunkhouse site and to have a look at the facilities available (latrines and cooking area).



The last stop in Guiuan was a visit to the **Tent City**. This area was affected by Typhoon Agaton that swept through the area the weekend prior to the donor visit, causing tents and structures within the tent city to be blown away. As a result, during the visit, the tent city was only housing a reduced number of 118 families. Some structures, such as the kitchen and the latrines, had already been re-built but others, such as the child and women-friendly spaces are still to be re-built. IOM’s partners from the local government unit were present and provided an opportunity for a Q&A session with the group.



Cebu—Haiyan Response

From the almost-demolished airport of Guiuan, the group took a half-hour UNHAS (UN Humanitarian Air Service) flight from Guiuan to Cebu. Once again, from the air, visitors could see the vastness of the destruction, the area littered by fallen coconut trees.





15 container vans pulled in carrying family shelter kits (FSK) to be distributed across the four IOM Haiyan hubs. Each FSK consists of a blanket, sleeping mat, plates, utensils, cups, frying pan, cooking pot, ladle, kitchen knife, and a jerry can.

IOM Cebu also conducts operations that address needs in the Haiyan-affected areas of Northern Cebu under the CCCM and Shelter clusters. (See Annex 10 for Cebu Hub Update).

23 January: Bohol —Earthquake Response

IOM's sub-office in Bohol implements activities that address needs in the areas of CCCM; emergency shelter, recovery shelter, and shelter repair interventions; and communication with communities.

Following an early morning ferry ride from Cebu to Bohol, the group visited the IOM sub-office and received a briefing that focused on IOM's operations covering the 17 municipalities most affected by the earthquake in Bohol. (See Annex 11 for the Bohol Sub-office Update and 31 January Situation Report).

In Cebu, IOM has its logistics hub serving the Haiyan Response and other emergencies in the country. The hub is involved in the procurement and transport of relief items to serve the needs of beneficiaries in the other IOM hubs.

Importation clearance of materials to be distributed across the four IOM Haiyan hubs (Tacloban, Ormoc, Roxas and Guiuan) are being processed by the IOM Cebu logistics hub. In the early evening when the group visited the IOM office, the first of



A site visit to the **Maribojoc Recovery Shelter** allowed the group to see IOM-constructed shelters designed to incorporate disaster risk reduction concepts. The group also had an opportunity to interact with beneficiaries living at the site. Discussions centred mostly on their experience following the earthquake and the needs that remain to be addressed.



A visit to **Sitio Tiwi** provided an opportunity to visit existing temporary shelters. At the time of the visit, 16 families were still living in tents. Residents had just finished a health education session on communicable diseases when the group arrived. The barangay captain, who was present during the visit, thanked the group for the assistance received.

On the way to the next site visit, the group saw the damage brought about by the earthquake to the community. Centuries-old churches were reduced to unrecognizable rubble and houses tipped on their axis.





24 January: Cotabato —the Peace Process

The IOM sub-office in Cotabato was established in 2008 in response to the displacements and humanitarian needs brought about by the breakdown of the GPH-MILF peace talks over claims of ancestral domains. Since then, IOM has assisted over 2 million displaced individuals with various cluster activities and community-based awareness sessions on CCCM, Shelter, Health and Protection (prevention of human trafficking). (See Annex 12 for Cotabato Sub-office Briefing Kit).

A visit to the **Governor's mansion** was also arranged to meet 12 of the 17 mayors whose municipalities were hardest hit by the earthquake. The lunch provided the group with an opportunity to have a Q&A session with the governor. The discussion covered topics such as challenges faced in the immediate aftermath of the earthquake, emergency response by the local government, lessons learned and disaster preparedness mechanisms which have been put in place as a result of the earthquake, and the revitalization of tourism in Bohol.

The last stop in Bohol was the **Cortes Recovery Shelter** for a discussion with representatives of 30 families who were recipients of IOM's full recovery shelter. Present were the mayor, vice-mayor and the barangay captain.

Directly from the airport, the group took a 2-hour ride to visit the **hard-to-reach location of Barangay Pandan, South Upi** for a community interaction with beneficiaries of the CERF-funded barangay health station repair, a convergence site of the Mindanao Humanitarian Team, implementing projects from the following agencies: IOM, HOM (Health Organization for Mindanao), MYROI (Muslim Youth Religious Organization, Inc.), MTB (Mindanao Tulong Bakwet inc), Similardef. Local government officials, such as the Provincial Engineer from the Maguindanao provincial government, Vice-mayor of the municipality of San Upi, Municipal Councilors, and barangay officials welcomed the group.



IOM, through the CERF-funded project, provides life-saving health services through the refurbishment of five barangay health stations, provision of medical equipment and supplies, orientation on maintenance of health facilities to health workers, and coordination with the local health



authorities and the Health cluster on health-related interventions.

On the day of the visit, an ongoing maternal health day, held once a week, was taking place at the health clinic. The discussion between the group and the health providers in the barangay health station focused on the need for ambulance transport facility (considering that the nearest district public health facility is 19 kilometres away) and access to a day care center.



The group also saw a health information campaign on gender-based violence and maternal health as well as psychosocial and mental health training, run by partners.



From South Upi, a brief stop was made at the IOM office to meet the IOM staff and to be briefed on IOM's activities in Cotabato. The group then proceeded to the **Office of the Regional Governor compound** for a meeting with the government officials of the Autonomous Region in

Muslim Mindanao (ARMM). Discussion centered around the issues and challenges faced by the ARMM, as well as lessons learned. In the meeting were: ARMM Executive Secretary, Department of Social Welfare and Development - ARMM, Department of Labour and Employment - ARMM, Department of Interior and Local Government - ARMM, ARMM Council Against Trafficking (ACAT) – Regional Planning and Development Office, and the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process – Sajahatra Bangsamoro Programme (OPAPP).



The discussion provided an overview of the tasks ahead once the Peace Agreement is signed. It is anticipated that the year 2015 will be the period of transition from ARMM to Bangsamoro Authority and that in 2014, the Bangsamoro Law must be passed as it will define the transition and the turnover. The transition process will aim to minimize the displacement of 30,000 ARMM bureaucracy, 22,000 of whom are teachers. Bangsamoro will prioritize programmes on education, health and livelihood, while addressing transitional justice, truth and reconciliation in the normalization process. All the mechanisms to implement these will be drafted.

The Bangsamoro Development Agency (BDA), has set up seven regional offices across Mindanao in an effort to reach out and provide assistance to conflict affected communities. The development of Bangsamoro Development Agency's (BDA) Relief Unit is still underway. IOM's assistance in crafting the Bangsamoro Development Plan will be greatly appreciated.

ARMM reinforced the need to replicate IOM interventions in building the Migrant/Youth Resource Center and public employment service offices previously implemented in Maguindanao.

25 January: Cotabato (cont.)

A joint meeting with the **officials and heads of the BDA, the Bangsamoro Transition Commission (BTC), and the Sajahatra Bangsamoro Programme** gave the group an overview of their mandates and an update of the ongoing peace process.

- The BDA is the development arm of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) mandated to undertake humanitarian, rehabilitation and development programmes for the Bangsamoro communities.
- The BTC has started to draft the Bangsamoro Basic Law (BBL), which will be submitted to the President and to Congress for enactment. The BBL also outlines the transition from the ARMM to the Bangsamoro Transition Authority (BTA) that looks into continuity of programmes, of human resources and of basic services.
- The Sajahatra Bangsamoro is an intervention livelihood programme by the Government of the Philippines (GPH) and the MILF, which focuses on education, health and livelihood. The programme will also look into transitional justice. They welcome ideas from IOM on the implementation of matters related to transitional justice.



The next meeting was with the **MILF Chairman, Al Hadj Murad Ebrahim, in Camp Darapanan** who expressed his thanks to IOM for having assisted their people together with other agencies. The activities that IOM has been implementing through its Cotabato office have contributed significantly to uplifting the situation of communities, especially during the 2008 crisis where many were displaced by the conflict. He went on to say that he hopes to continue to work as a partner with IOM in the forthcoming period following the hopeful signature of the comprehensive agreement to start rebuilding their homeland and lives. He recognizes that the challenges will be complex therefore they will need partners, particularly from the international community. He counts on IOM to remain a strong and effective partner, considering that there are still so many of his people who are displaced.



The Chairman proceeded to give an update of the peace process with the GPH, including the impending conclusion of the last annex for the

framework agreement. Discussion topics centered around their needs, priorities and challenges; plans on how to ensure that all communities (i.e., all other Bangsamoro revolutionary reformists) are included in future planning; plans for building capacities of former combatants in order to facilitate their integration into civil society with new skills; coordination with the ARMM to prepare for the next stages of governance and to harmonize visions and programmes; the mechanisms to be put in place to ensure that the agreement is implemented in the spirit it was envisioned; health programmes and psychosocial support envisioned; and communication strategies to reach out to communities. The Chairman mentioned that the Bangsamoro comprehensive development plan covering the short to long term will need assistance from the international community and further advised IOM to situate its assistance and intervention to this development plan.

The last stop in Cotabato was to the **Cotabato office of OCHA for a briefing with the Mindanao Humanitarian Team (MHT)**. In the briefing were representatives from UNICEF on child protection, UNHCR on protection, Community and Family Services International (CFSI) on psychosocial support and education, MYROI (Muslim Youth Religious Organization Inc) on health (on behalf of the Health Cluster), ICRC on indigenous people, Mine Action, IPDEV on indigenous persons, and WFP.

Discussion centered around the MHT's interaction with the ARMM and the transitional authori-



ty; on employment and livelihood interventions; on the use of the DTM by partners in the MHT; and on access to the communities and role of local authorities and local NGOs.

Debrief and Conclusions

During the course of the visit, two debriefs took place, the first upon completion of the Bohol visit, which was attended by representatives from:

- ECHO—Dessislava Bostandjieva-Choumelova
- Italy—Luigi Cavestro
- Spain—Carlos Gallego
- Belgium—Jozef Naudts
- Netherlands—Maurits ter Kuile
- USA—Rick Swart

The second debrief took place upon return to Manila following the Cotabato visit with representatives from ECHO, the Netherlands and the USA.

IOM staff who participated in the debrief were:

- Chief of Mission—Marco Boasso
- Chief, Donor Relations — Monica Goracci
- Chief, Media and Communications—Leonard Doyle
- Regional Emergency and Post-crisis Adviser—Brian Kelly
- Senior Migration Health Policy Advisor—Nenette Motus
- Head, Manila Emergency and Post-recovery Unit—Rex Alamban

- Head, Labour Migration Unit—Ric Casco
- National Operations Officer—Conrad Navidad
- National Project Development Officer—Romina Sta Clara
- Staff Security Officer—Ismael Gerasol
- Donor Relations Officer—Carol San Miguel

At the de-brief, discussion revolved around reflections on the site visits, IOM's role in emergencies, the value of the DTM as a tool that communicates with communities to gauge their needs so that all actors can better focus their response, and the good working relationship between IOM and the government. Appreciation was also expressed for the logistical organization and the agenda that allowed them to witness the variety of responses that IOM is engaged in in the Philippines.

For more on the DTM, please follow this link <http://cccmphilippines.iom.int/dtm-main>. Please also see Annex 13 for more information about the DTM.



Funding Requirement

	CCCM	Shelter/NFI	Health	Protection CT	GBV	CwC
Typhoon Yolanda*	USD7,500,000	USD46,080,000	USD1,810,511	USD700,000	USD900,000	USD600,000
Bohol Earthquake	USD 2.8 million expected funding gap for recovery shelter and repair of health posts in under-served and hard-to-reach areas					
Cotabato	Estimate of USD 2.5 million for nine months covering CCCM, Shelter and Health activities. More precise figure will be published following technical and financial assessments by local government and the Mindanao Humanitarian Team					

* See Annex 14 for an info graph on Typhoon Yolanda funding requirements