Highlights

- Heavy rain in Region VIII is hampering response operations.
- Emergency food-aid distributions will continue up to the next rice-production season in May 2014, particularly in remote inland and highland areas where some affected farmers have not received assistance and need urgent support.
- Humanitarian partners are supporting the Department of Social Welfare and Development and the Department of Public Works and Highways in finding alternative sites to help decongest schools being used as evacuation centres.
- Low funding for recovery shelter and limited transitional settlement options prolong the stay of displaced people in evacuation centres.

Situation Overview

Heavy rain in Region VIII is hampering the distribution of food and rice seeds as well as cash programmes. Response operations will not return to normal before 15 January when weather conditions are expected to improve. The risk of flash floods and landslides is heightened in some areas due to land erosion.

Emergency food-aid distributions will continue up to the next rice-production season in May 2014, particularly in remote inland and highland areas where some affected farmers whose crops were destroyed have not received assistance and need urgent support. Affected people in underserved areas sometimes need to walk half a day to access assistance.

Food partners are gearing up medium- to longer-term recovery interventions. They are supporting livelihoods through cash programmes and alternative livelihoods strategies, such as vegetable, pig and poultry farming. Initial data suggests that fishery- and coconut-plantation-related interventions are still underserved. Partners are jointly developing comprehensive strategies for coconut farmers and fisheries.

Low funding for recovery shelter and limited transitional settlement options are prolonging the stay of displaced people in evacuation centres (ECs). Humanitarian partners are supporting the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) and the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) in finding alternative sites to help decongest schools used as ECs. However, there is a need for more clarity on “no-build” zones to guide resettlement-support activities.
Funding

As of 13 January, US$609 million has been contributed to the Typhoon Haiyan response, according to the Financial Tracking Service (FTS). Of this total, $328 million was contributed to the Strategic Response Plan (SRP) for Haiyan (closely aligned to the Government’s Recovery Assistance on Yolanda (RAY) Plan launched on 18 December). Over 80 entities contributed to the SRP, including Member States, the Central Emergency Response Fund, multilateral institutions, private companies and individuals.

For updated funding figures, visit the Typhoon Haiyan page on FTS at: http://bit.ly/17lyKgJ.

Overview of the humanitarian situation in Western Visayas (Region VI)

The northern parts of Panay and Negros Occidental islands in Western Visayas (Region VI) sustained major destruction from the winds of Typhoon Haiyan (Yolanda). Fortunately they did not suffer from the deadly storm surges, but there was major damage to shelter, agriculture, fisheries and livelihoods. In addition, the oil spill near Estancia has created an “emergency within the emergency”, with hundreds of families displaced.

Region VI is recovering from the typhoon at a remarkable speed. The bulk of the general distributions will end this month and be substituted by cash handouts, as well as a general shift to early recovery activities. This is due to many factors including the strong working relationship with the local government partners, the Canadian DART team’s robust support in the first six weeks, and the massive outpouring of support and the scale of operations started by humanitarian partners.

There are lingering concerns that certain communities in the mountainous areas of Antique Province, the northern part of Negros Occidental and in outlying islands off the west coast of Panay are not regularly assessed and/or serviced with aid. Currently there are no indications of acute humanitarian needs.

Rebuilding the fishing and farming livelihoods is the top concern in the region. Assistance is required to support fishermen with boats and financing, and to help coconut farmers find livelihoods in the next five to seven years as their coconut plantations regrow. Regarding shelter, communities strongly prefer the option of receiving shelter kits to rebuild their homes, thereby creating less of a dependency on bunkhouses (unlike in Region VIII). However, many families remain in temporary shelter solutions (such as tarpaulins), and more permanent solutions are required. Current assessments show that the health, nutrition and WASH indicators are close to pre-typhoon levels. Schools have re-opened but many classrooms are damaged or beyond repair.

Government officials in Region VI are forging ahead on early recovery and rehabilitation programmes, spurring humanitarian partners to follow accordingly. Each cluster is conducting a variety of capacity-building workshops with Government counterparts and community officials on topics such as health, nutrition, protection, GBV, nutrition, WASH, education and shelter.
Humanitarian Response

Camp Coordination and Camp Management

Needs:
- A total of 1,020 displaced families remain in schools in Tacloban, which have reopened for classes.
- In Cebu, continuous heavy rain over the past week caused problems in Tent City, which had no electricity for two days. It does not have a proper drainage system.

Response:
- In Tacloban, emergency shelter responses identified 140 IDPs in schools from “can-build” areas who will return home.
- Training was held in protection and security for camp security committees in Astrodome EC (Tacloban).
- Site upgrades (cooking counters, partitions, bathing cubicles) have been initiated in priority camps in Tacloban.

Gaps & Constraints:
- Lack of recovery shelter and transitional settlement options are prolonging the time IDPs are in ECs.
- There is a lack of adequate transitional-settlement options for people from no-build zones.
- CCCM is only 10 per cent funded, leading to limited capacity for coverage of site management, site upgrades and development of alternative transitional sites.

Early Recovery and Livelihoods

Needs:
- Some 5.9 million workers were affected, with livelihoods and income sources destroyed, lost or disrupted. Current cluster activities target 400,000 of these people.
- Fallen coconut trees need to be processed for shelter lumber and livelihood activities. Livelihoods activities need to be restarted and diversified for the worst-affected people.

Response:
- Cluster activities are engaging some 72,000 beneficiaries, mainly in debris-clearing.
- Livelihoods activities include skills training for re-employment in Cebu Province, micro-enterprise development for small-scale shopkeepers in northern Cebu and restoration of some livelihoods interventions in Leyte.

Gaps & Constraints:
- Insufficient support to local governments to resume Government services and restore Government facilities is preventing progress.
- Only a few livelihoods activities have started. Fewer than 20 per cent of tracked livelihood activities (benefiting some 5,000 people) have been completed.
- ER&L projects appealing for $117 million are only 17 per cent covered. Most livelihoods projects have received no funding to date.

Education

Needs:
- There is a need to scale up the establishment of temporary learning spaces, repair schools, and provide teaching and learning materials to support the Back to Learning (BTL) campaign.

Response:
- Cluster partners have provided 290,000 pre-school and school-age children (aged 3 to 17) with learning supplies and materials in Regions VI, VII and VIII (50 per cent of children targeted). This includes the distribution of over 1,800 Schools in a Box, 400 Early Childhood Development kits and 1,350 recreational kits.
- Text messages were sent to 5,000 parents to encourage enrolment as part of the BTL campaign.
• A total of 2,355 day-care Centres in Regions VI and VII are due to reopen on 27 January.

Gaps & Constraints
• Seven priority schools are still being used as ECs and hosting about 5,000 IDPs in Tacloban City. School attendance at these schools is 25 to 50 per cent.
• Educational personnel and children lack psychosocial support.

Food Security and Agriculture
Needs:
• According to the Department of Agriculture’s estimates, 154,954 farming households and 48,915 fishing households (400,000 people) were directly affected by the typhoon.
• Thirty-three million trees were damaged in Region VIII. Affected coconut farmers have lost their livelihoods for six to nine years.
• Sixty-five per cent of fishing communities lost their productive assets, and about 28,000 mainly small-scale fishing boats were destroyed.

Response:
• Since operations began, WFP has provided 17,800 tons of food for more than 2.7 million affected people and cash to more than 194,000 people.
• Eighty-eight per cent of the almost 44,000 FAO-assisted rice farmers have received rice seeds to plant in December/January in Regions VI and VIII.
• In Region VI, immediate food needs for affected food-insecure people are expected to be met for January 2014. There is more emphasis on difficult-to-reach areas, remote islands and interior barangay.

Gaps & Constraints:
• Affected farmers in highland areas have not received assistance and need urgent support.
• Heavy rain in Region VIII is hampering the delivery of rice seeds and food. Cash-distribution activities have been affected. Inclement weather is forecasted until 15 January. It is therefore unlikely that operations will resume at a normal pace. Partners are prioritizing food allocations to priority areas.

Health
Needs
• Fifteen suspected measles cases were reported between 15 December and 11 January in Tacloban. There have been five in Carigara, four in Bilaran (all in Region VIII) and two in Manila in the past seven days.
• Only five of Tacloban City’s eight hospitals are fully functioning.
• Most barangay health stations are not functioning in Tacloban City.

Humanitarian Response
• The number of foreign medical teams operating in affected areas has decreased from 52 to 40 in the past four days, including mobile teams.
• The Health Cluster is conducting water-quality reassessments and setting up a water-quality monitoring system to improve information and allow quick interventions.
• The Health Cluster has conducted assessments of health-care waste management in Tacloban City,Ormoc, Eastern Samar and Cebu.
• The capacity for reproductive-health (RH) referral facilities in Kalibo (Region VI) has been enhanced through the distribution of emergency RH kits serving 30,000 women for three months.
• Since December 2013, 48 RH missions have been conducted in Leyte, Eastern Samar, Capiz and Iloilo, serving 7,503 women through pre- and post-natal checkups, family planning counselling, health-information sessions and hygiene-kit distribution.

Gaps & Constraints
• It is a challenge to provide RH services, especially to 42 barangay in 20 small islands of Iloilo.

Nutrition
Needs:
Priorities include supplementary feeding for 145,000 children; micronutrient supplementation for 100,000 children and treatment of acute malnutrition for 27,000 children.

Response:

To date, 73,790 children under age 5 were screened, with detection of 2,121 acute malnutrition cases (251 severe; 1,870 moderate). Slightly more than 50 per cent of children with SAM were admitted for treatment.

Blanket supplementary feeding has reached 97,438 children age 6 to 59 months in Regions VI and VIII with Ready-to-Use- Therapeutic Food and High Energy Biscuits, according to WFP.

Infant and young-child feeding (IYCF) services were provided to 8,876 pregnant and lactating women using the barangay nutrition scholars network, mobile counsellors and 32 mother-and-baby-friendly spaces.

Gaps & Constraints:

Critical gaps remain in programme coverage in areas that the Nutrition Cluster prioritized for Community-based Management of Acute Malnutrition, micronutrient powders and IYCF interventions. Priority municipalities in Region VI still require partners and funding.

Programme response information is inconsistent due to a lack of partners on the ground and the Government’s limited capacity to provide consistent data in all affected regions.

In some areas, partners are reporting inconsistent participation in programmes to treat acute malnutrition, which will undermine treatment outcomes.

The number of people identified with acute malnutrition is low. However, it is anticipated that more may be found as screening activities expand, and if essential needs are not met in other areas, such as health, food security, WASH and livelihoods.

Protection

Needs:

Many municipalities in western Leyte have not received emergency shelter assistance. There is a need to target future distribution to coastal barangay and hard-to-reach rural communities.

Distribution of solar lanterns is recommended for four coastal barangay in Calubian (Leyte Province) where power has not been restored.

Municipalities in Eastern Samar highlighted the need for computers to prepare registration documents, rather than rely on typewriters.

Response:

Bantayan Island (north-west of Cebu Island) received a - distribution of Non-Food-Items (plastic sheets, kitchen sets, solar lamps, tents and blankets).

Thirty-eight women police officers are staffing women–and-children protection desks at five ECs in Tacloban City and community-based sites in Tanauan and Palo municipalities.

A total of 2,263 solar lanterns were distributed to vulnerable communities in eight municipalities in Eastern Samar.

A total of 117 women attended protection-themed talks in Tacloban City.

Bunkhouses in Estancia and Conception have been redesigned to provide two rooms per family. They are expected to be completed by early February.

Gaps & Constraints:

Four organizations conducting child-protection activities remain unfunded.

In Tacloban, schools still being used as ECs are experiencing theft of school materials and sanitation issues.

The GBV response in Leyte has been hampered by lack of transport to bring cases of violence against women and children to referral facilities.

Focus-group discussions in four municipalities in Leyte revealed people’s concerns, including restoration of electricity and information dissemination. An increase in police numbers was requested to reduce the crime rate and improve people’s safety.
Shelter

Needs:
- According to the Government, 1.1 million houses were damaged; nearly 550,000 were destroyed.

Response:
- To date, 384,329 households have received basic emergency shelter materials. Support for shelter self-recovery for 60,508 households has been distributed or is ongoing.
- The Shelter Cluster in Cebu held a workshop in which the cluster’s strategic operational framework was discussed with 120 cluster partners, representatives of local government units and representatives of affected people.
- The Shelter Cluster in Roxas has developed a document on beneficiary selection criteria that will help to support a common and harmonized approach.

Gaps & Constraints:
- Shelter is seriously and disproportionally underfunded: So far only 12 of the 33 projects in the Strategic Response Plan’s shelter section have received funding.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Needs:
- ECs need improved WASH interventions to avoid disease outbreaks.
- Increased cases of dengue and chikungunya require more robust vector control and waste-management measures in western Leyte.

Response:
- Partners are working with the Department of Health on vector control in 56 priority sites around Tacloban.
- Partners are working with Local Government Units to repair damaged water systems, including in remote mountainous barangay such as Barauen, where bloody diarrhoea cases were reported two weeks ago.
- To date, 151,300 affected people have received water kits, 1,858 IDPs have access to improved sanitation facilities in camps and 34,290 hygiene kits have been distributed to 188,595 affected people.

Gaps & Constraints:
- More partners are needed in the western provinces of Region VI and in western Leyte.
- Recent rain has caused flooding in some ECs, re-contaminating water supplies.

Emergency Telecommunications

Response:
- Humanitarian organizations in Concepcion and Bantayan Island are receiving Internet connectivity.
- A VSAT was installed in Estancia to replace the emergency Rapid Deployment Kit, which has been demobilized and shipped out.
- In Guiuan, vehicle radios are being programmed and drivers are receiving HF/VHF radio training.
- Internet, printing and ICT help desk services are ongoing in all operational areas.
- ETC is now providing Internet to the humanitarian community in 30 locations across nine towns and cities.

Gaps & Constraints:
- In Guiuan there is a shortage of materials such as cables, connectors, generators and tools for VSAT installation.
- In Roxas the recently installed VHF repeater is not fully operational due to a lack of power. Inclement weather has prevented the charging of solar panels and deployment up the mountain to find a solution.
- Extensive damage to power grids means that continuous access to electricity is a challenge. Power surges have resulted in damaged equipment. ICT staff should advise colleagues to use surge protectors.
- Access to fuel in certain areas is a problem, restricting the use of generators.
**Logistics**

**Response:**
- The Logistics Cluster is helping DSWD establish a logistics hub in Palompon, near Ormoc. A dedicated team is installing a mobile storage unit to augment DSWD’s storage capacity in the new location.
- The Logistics Cluster is providing training on warehousing, equipment handling, and health and safety to Government and international staff.
- On 13 January, landing craft Victoria reached Guiuan, its final destination, carrying WFP rice.
- The Logistics Cluster is supporting DSWD with trucks for distribution activities in Leyte, and providing temporary storage to DSWD and the humanitarian community in Cebu, Roxas, Tacloban, Guiuan and Ormoc.

**Gaps and Constraints:**
- The one-stop shop for customs clearance is still active but its membership has dwindled, causing delays in obtaining clearance. Efforts are being made to improve the situation, using focal points.

**Communication with Communities**

**Needs:**
- Affected people lack up-to-date information on key concerns around shelter, Government plans, electricity, livelihoods, weather updates and job opportunities.
- ECs need more information materials.

**Response:**
- CwC is expanding its role in Ormoc, thanks to an alliance of CwC partners across all clusters.

**Gaps & Constraints:**
- Many agencies are setting up feedback mechanisms, but these need to be coordinated and the information shared at the community level.
- There is a lack of CwC awareness at barangay level.
- Affected people lack an estimated 10,000 solar-powered radio or “crunched” radios and affordable cell phones to enable more and better information access.
General Coordination

On 9 January, the Philippines Disaster Recovery Foundation (PDRF) and OCHA hosted a meeting to help private-sector coordinators and humanitarian cluster coordinators develop a better understanding of the cluster approach. Participants discussed how the private sector and the international humanitarian community clusters can work together and support the Government response.

The PDRF was established in 2009 to enable the Philippines’ private sector to coordinate its disaster response, preparedness and development activities. PDRF’s immediate focus for Typhoon Haiyan is on the rehabilitation of damaged communities and the private sector’s participation in long-term recovery, under the auspices of the Government recovery plan (RAY).

The Office of Civil Defence is encouraging international humanitarian partners to share their early recovery planning documents for onward submission to the Government entity in charge of RAY, headed by Secretary Panfilio Lacson.

The Food Security and Agriculture Cluster and the Early Recovery and Livelihoods Cluster are looking at ways to develop comprehensive strategies for coconut farmers and fisheries in rural and coastal areas.

The Shelter Cluster is supporting a pilot project in Capiz Province that focuses on salvaging fallen trees. The Early Recovery Cluster and the Provincial Coconut Authority are leading the project. Shelter Cluster partners will receive 40 per cent of the lumber from the project.

The Shelter Cluster is asking all partners to participate in an online survey so that it can understand their needs and capabilities, including funding. The survey is available at http://svy.mk/1kx2HWH

Background on the crisis
Typhoon Haiyan (known locally as Yolanda) swept through the central Philippines on 8 November. It killed over 6,000 people, displaced 4 million people, flattened homes and damaged schools, health centres and other infrastructure. Some experts estimate the storm was among the strongest ever to make landfall. On 9 November, the Government accepted the UN offer of international assistance. The Government also welcomed the deployment, in the initial phase of disaster response, of a large number of countries’ military assets. The humanitarian community’s Strategic Response Plan, requesting $788 million, is closely aligned to the Government’s Reconstruction Assistance on Yolanda - RAY (formerly referred to as the Yolanda Recovery and Rehabilitation Plan), which was launched on 18 December 2013.

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