



OVERVIEW

Typhoon Haiyan swept through central Philippines on 8 November 2013, affecting 14 million persons, including some 4 million displaced persons, and causing extensive damage to property and social networks. This has raised important concerns for the safety of affected persons, especially those vulnerable to protection risks, including children, women and girls, disabled, elderly persons, indigenous people in remote areas and those displaced as a consequence of the Typhoon.

UNHCR aims to protect and promote the rights of the most vulnerable among the millions affected and displaced by Typhoon Haiyan. Together with the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), UNHCR co-leads the Protection Cluster, assisting typhoon survivors with the provision of emergency shelter and other relief items, as well as delivering on protection in close coordination with other Clusters and various national and international partners.

Following the deactivation of the IASC level 3 emergency on 11 February 2014, the Humanitarian Country Team started to shift its focus towards guiding the transition from relief to recovery. In consultation with its partners, UNHCR has developed a transition plan for the Protection Cluster, which aims at strengthening national capacity and gradually handing over the field-based cluster co-leadership to the National Commission on Human Rights (CHR). As of 1 April, the Protection Clusters in Roxas and Cebu are led by DSWD and CHR with the support from UNHCR. The Protection Cluster in Tacloban, Guiuan and Ormoc are co-led by DSWD and UNHCR with an increasing engagement of CHR.

UNHCR also continues to assist the local authorities in the area of civil registration/documentation, conduct protection training for government officials, armed forces, police and aid workers, undertake protection monitoring and assessment, and advocate for remaining protection needs of those affected by the typhoon (notably in the context of on-going relocation to bunkhouses and transitional sites).

FUNDING

UNHCR's financial requirements for the Haiyan emergency are USD 19.2 million (UNHCR Appeal launched in November 2013). The funding allows for implementation of Protection Cluster coordination and protection delivery, as well as provision of basic relief items.

Contributions	USD
Brazil	150,000
Canada	1,795,332
CERF	3,002,469
Germany	4,805,915
Japan	2,000,000
Norway	975,638
Republic of Korea	200,000
Spain	51,102
United Kingdom	1,650,165
United States of America	1,000,000
Private donors	4,540,458
Total	20,171,079
Private donors (in-kind contributions)	700,331
Grand total	20,871,410

As of 7 April, 2014

Protection Cluster Main Objectives

- ◆ **Physical security** is ensured to identify most vulnerable populations through state protection mechanisms with the support of the Protection Cluster and other actors.
- ◆ **Non-discriminatory access** to information, assistance, and basic services for all, with particular support to the most vulnerable individuals.
- ◆ **Girls and boys are protected from violence**, exploitation (including trafficking), abuse and neglect, and the existing national, provincial and local mechanisms for child protection are strengthened.
- ◆ **Minimize risks associated with gender based violence**, and ensure provision and safe access to survivor-centered and multi-sectoral services.
- ◆ **Support implementation of government policies** in relation to displacement, relocation and return in line with the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement and other international standards.

MAIN ACTIVITIES and DEVELOPMENTS

Emergency shelter and relief assistance

- To date, UNHCR assisted over 600,000 persons with specific needs by providing solar lanterns, emergency shelter and other relief items. Distribution of relief items has been done in a strategic manner to complement the work of the Protection Cluster and to achieve priority protection objectives such as improving physical security of persons with specific vulnerabilities, outreach to remote communities, promoting child protection and prevention of gender-based violence. Some 10,000 tents, 100,000 plastic sheets, 88,000 blankets, 14,000 kitchen sets, 33,000 jerry cans as well as 19,000 solar lanterns (including 10,000 lanterns and phone chargers donated by Koinonia Foundation) have been distributed to the affected communities in cooperation with national partners. Further, gifts-in-kind from private corporations, including 500 chainsaws from Hugsvarna, 800,000 pieces of clothing from UNIQLO, 500 gumboots and over 2,000 mattresses and bedspreads from Ikea, were distributed to the affected communities and local NGO partners.

Civil registration / documentation

- UNHCR supports the effort of the Local Government Units and Civil Registrar Offices in ensuring that the affected communities are (re)issued birth certificates and other forms of civil documentation, essential for protection and access to national basic services. The Free Mobile Civil Registration project started in March 2014, targeting to register/replace 100,000 civil documents in 20 most affected municipalities in Leyte and Eastern Samar.

Protection monitoring and assessment

- Protection monitoring has been conducted in over 220 barangays, focusing on communities in remote locations, evacuation centers, relocation sites as well as permanent housing for people moved from no-dwelling zones. Main protection concerns raised by IDPs include limited access to assistance and services for certain disadvantaged communities, lack of access to livelihood, limited information or consultation on relocation issues as well as inadequate conditions of certain transition sites. Findings of the monitoring / assessment have been utilized for advocacy, referral support and prioritization of assistance. An inter-agency Protection Monitoring Task Force is set up in Tacloban with the primary objective of advocating that the rights of IDPs are upheld, through information-sharing with the affected communities as well as advocacy with the relevant authorities, especially on issues related to relocation.

Protection training and capacity development support

- To date, some 2,700 personnel from the Armed Forces and Philippines National Police, municipal and barangays officials and service providers have benefited from a series of Protection training conducted by UNHCR and its partners. The training aims to increase awareness, improve protection delivery and promote mainstreaming of protection in various assistance/recovery efforts. The training includes modules on the UN Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, Child Protection, Sexual and Gender based Violence, and inclusion of people with specific needs into assistance and services. Further, as part of the transition plan, specific training on protection cluster coordination and leadership has been conducted for CHR and DSWD staff as well as municipal authorities. Technical and material support has also been provided to local DSWD and CHR offices to help restore their operational capacity.

Advocacy

- UNHCR with Protection Cluster members has identified and advocated for various protection needs of IDPs and other affected communities. In particular, an inter-agency working group was established both in Manila and in the field to address issues related to Land, Housing and Property and related relocation/evacuation issues. Together with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, technical support has been provided to the relevant authorities.

Child Protection and SGBV

- Women and Children Protection Desks have been established / reinforced in Roxas, Borongan and Tacloban. Training was provided to some 40 female police officers who have been deployed to various affected locations. Women-friendly spaces have been established in transition sites. Advocacy continues to increase the number of female police officers and strengthen the GBV referral network. Also, together with the Child Protection sub-cluster, a number of initiatives have been undertaken to address specific vulnerabilities of youth and children, including through the creation of child friendly spaces, needs assessment of youth as well as awareness raising and documentation of unaccompanied or separated children.

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