

# PHILIPPINES : HAIYAN TYPHOON EXTERNAL UPDATE #2

13 November 2013

Photograph : Tecson Lim



**UNHCR**  
The UN  
Refugee Agency

## Highlights

The number of people affected by Typhoon Haiyan after it hit the Philippines on 8-9 November is now estimated at 11.3 million people— 12% of the population. Up to 670,000 people are internally displaced, most of them staying in 1,200 evacuation centres. Over 23,000 houses are destroyed. Thousands of people are feared dead or missing, and there are fears that their number may rise as the situation remains fluid. There is widespread destruction (up to 90% in some areas). Another typhoon is announced in northern Surigao / Mindanao and evacuation is under way.

**Staff deployments : 4 UNHCR staff** (from our Cotabato/Mindanao office) **have reached Tacloban** via Surigao (north eastern Mindanao) **today**.

**Relief items : 2 40-foot container trucks have reached Tacloban from Cotabato today**, after traveling by barge across to Leyte and driving up to Tacloban. They contain 2000 Jerry Cans, 1400 Hygiene Kits, 600 Mosquito Nets, 1176 Kitchen Sets, 1400 Plastic Sheets, 1400 Blankets (Fleece), 1900 Sleeping Mats.

A meeting with local officials (DSWD) and military helped establish where the **needs** are most pressing. UNHCR is planning to do a **rapid field assessment in the east and west of Tacloban** and commence with distribution together with the Philippine Department of Social Welfare Development (DSWD).

## Funding

**The inter-agency UN Action Plan released on 12 November is appealing for a total of USD 301 million.**

**UNHCR's portion amounts to USD 10 million under the Protection and Shelter Clusters.**

## Main developments

- **Beneficiaries** : Estimations are that over 11.3 million peoples are affected by the Typhoon Haiyan in 9 regions / 36 provinces across the Philippines. Some 673,000 persons have been displaced, of whom 55% are in evacuation centres established by the Government. UNHCR is leading the Protection response and is participating in the immediate relief efforts with items (tents, plastic sheeting, mats, blankets, jerrycans, solar lanterns, etc.) targeting 16,000 families.
- **UNHCR's relief efforts** : UNHCR has committed to an initial relief effort which includes goods that were available at our warehouse in Cotabato (Mindanao). Some of these items have already reached Tacloban (see next page). The plan also includes the delivery of 5,000 family tents from our central stockpiles in Dubai, as well as non-food items for 16,000 families.
- **Protection role**: At the request of the Resident Coordinator / Humanitarian Coordinator and following inter-agency agreement, UNHCR has accepted to co-lead the Protection Cluster. This role will come in support of the **Department of the Social Welfare Development (DSWD)** of the government of the Philippines. The main objective of UNHCR's engagement is to assist the DSWD and other relevant authorities, such as the Human Right Commission, in establishing an effective protection coordination in the affected areas, providing expertise in the field of protection coordination and delivery. UNHCR will assist the Government in ensuring that a system is in place for displaced populations to have continued access to civil documentation (such as birth certificates) and essential services such as employment and education.
- We will also provide **hygiene kits, protection kits to 16,000 families, and solar lanterns to 50,000 families**. The lanterns are essential tools to protect women and children at night, given the absence of lighting in many areas. UNHCR will assist the government in coordinating the delivery of aid including community mobilisation and outreach, social workers and psycho-social support, family tracing and reunification, assisting people with specific needs, and legal assistance to land and property rights.
- **Staff deployments update** :  
As of today the total number of **UNHCR staff mobilised is 17** (with **4 more on standby**). This includes 9 UNHCR staff members from the Philippines offices (Manila and Cotabato), and 12 international deployments. 10 international deployees will arrive in Manila/Cebu by Thursday/Friday.

**International deployments** include: A Snr. Protection Cluster co-lead, Field / Protection staff, Supply, Admin, PI and External Relations staff. On standby are additional Field / Protection officers.

## Airlifts

- **3 airlifts** from Dubai and Copenhagen respectively are due to arrive in **Cebu** on 14/15 November and deliver a total of **3,000 family tents, 44,000 blankets and 15,000 plastic sheets to Cebu**. 4th and 5th airlift are being planned.

## Establishment of hubs / Reaching out to communities

### Cebu / Tagloban

- UNHCR Head of office in Cotobato was redeployed to Cebu as of 12/11 to start planning for the distribution of aid. He has met with the Head of Joint operations in Cebu who has committed all the support from the local authorities including labor force to help offload the aircrafts and hangars to store the relief items. The items will then be loaded onto naval vessels to be moved to the desired locations. Head of office has then reached Tagloban on 13/11.
- Other 2 staff from Zambo (information management and security) arrived in Cebu on 12/11 and proceeded to Tacloban today. Supply officer deployee and Protection officer from Manila will come to Cebu on Thursday to receive the flights.
- Information provided by the local military note that the communities near Tagloban do not have any food, shelter, electricity, water, or communication (except one phone tower close to the port). Communications for the delivery of aid will rely on satellite phones. Most of the NGOs and government officials are difficult to reach having been badly affected by the disaster.

### Other hubs

- Over the next week UNHCR will continue reaching out to Tacloban and also start spreading, in coordination with other actors, to other islands where there has been severe devastation, targetting in particular north Cebu and Iloilo, as emergency staff arrive. Ongoing needs assessment will continue with the authorities and others, as we access new areas.
- Areas emerging as clearly requiring urgent attention are : Busuanga, coast of Antique province, Kalibo-Roxas axis, and Iloilo.
- UN is in the process of establishing 30-person tented camps for agency staff in Cebu, Tagloban, Busuanga as well as a base in Roxas government offices.

## Financial requirements

- The Humanitarian Country Team, under the coordination of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), has issued an inter-agency Action Plan on 12/11 for a total amount of USD 301 million for six months. Several donors have already expressed support for the UN Appeal : Japan, Netherlands, Republic of Korea, Sweden, Canada as well as a USD 25 million from the CERF Rapid Response Contribution.
- UNHCR's initial requirements are: US\$10 million, as follows:  
(Note: a family size of 5 is used for the calculation purpose)

### **NFIs and Shelter:** Up to US\$6mil including transport

Plastic tarpaulins, Plastic Rolls, Jerry Cans, Blankets, Kitchen Sets and Plastic mats for 16,000 families / 80,000 persons (to be shipped from the stock in Dubai).

Family tents for 5,000 families / 80,000 persons (to be shipped from the stock in Dubai).

**Solar lanterns as protection support:** Up to US\$2 mil including transport for 50,000 families/communities (international procurement)

**Deployments** of Protection cluster staff and support staff/cost and establishment of hubs: Up to US\$2 mil.

### UNHCR's emergency response focuses on:

- 1) Immediate needs in emergency items including: plastic sheeting, jerry cans, kitchen sets, blankets and plastic mats for 16,000 families; and 5,000 family tents, to supplement the Shelter / CCCM / NFI clusters respectively;
- 2) Protection response including coordination of the Protection Cluster, as a co-lead and in support of the Department of Social Welfare Development (DSWD) of the Government of the Philippines.

Contact (for additional information) :

Delphine Marie, External Relations, UNHCR Bureau for the Asia and the Pacific (RBAP)

marie@unhcr.org, +41 79 500 94 74

Vivian Tan, Public Information, UNHCR, in Cebu

tanv@unhcr.org, mobile +63 9175963484