

This report was issued by OCHA New York based on inputs from the OCHA Regional Office for Asia Pacific (ROAP) and OCHA Philippines. It covers the period from 22 to 26 October 2009 and addresses Typhoon Parma, Tropical Storm Ketsana as well as preparations for Typhoon Lupit (Ramil). The next report will be issued on or around 2 November.

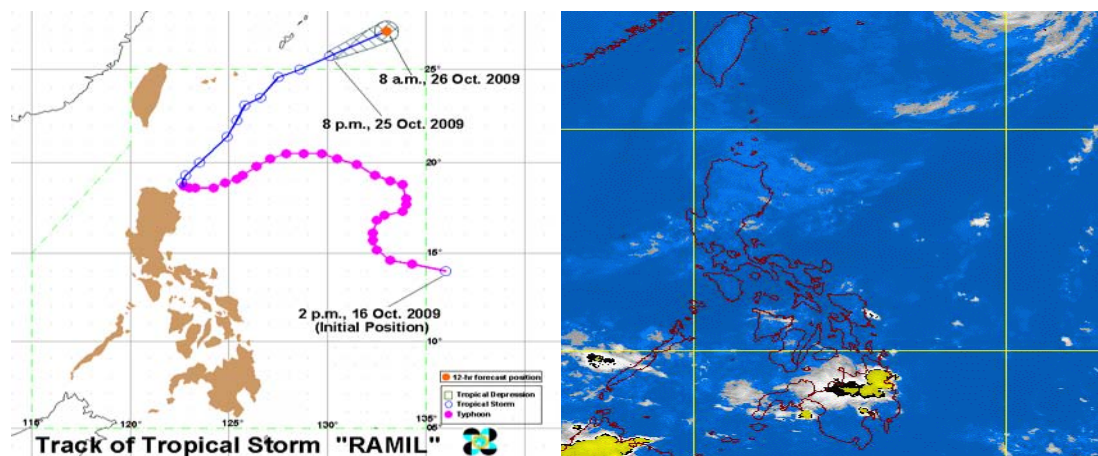
I. HIGHLIGHTS/KEY PRIORITIES

- The revision of the Flash Appeal is underway with all clusters providing project proposals by Wednesday, 28 October. The final field draft will be submitted to the CAP Section in Geneva by 3 November.
- Typhoon Lupit, locally known as “Ramil”, changed course just before making landfall in northern Luzon, not affecting the Philippines.
- Google has offered to use small aircraft equipped with high resolution cameras to assess the extent of damages in flood affected areas.
- According to a preliminary assessment conducted jointly by the Department of Agriculture and FAO (23 October) approximately 100,000 – 120,000 farmer’s households in Region I, II and III lost 100% of their production and assets.

II. Situation Overview

PAGASA Track as of 8 p.m., 25 October 2009

Satellite Picture at 9 p.m., 25 October 2009



Typhoon Lupit, locally known as “Ramil” has exited the Philippines Area of Responsibility (PAR) and continues to move northeast. As of 4PM local time on Sunday, 25 October, the storm was 780 km Northeast of Basco, Batanes.

The Government of the Republic of the Philippines ordered the pre-emptive evacuation of 5,239 people in seven provinces. As of 24 October, all had returned to their homes except in the province of Benguet, where 402 families, or 1866 people, continue to reside in 19 evacuation centres.

III. Humanitarian Needs and Response

Agriculture

Humanitarian needs: The latest statistics from the Department of Agriculture (DA) (16 October) show an increase of commodity losses to the amount of US\$ 496,964,584, including the livestock and fisheries sectors. The total cost of damages to irrigation and other agriculture facilities and infrastructure reached \$58,149,781. FAO and DA completed a preliminary assessment mission on 23 October 2009 to Region III (Nueva Ecija: Bambang and Bagabag municipalities); Region II (Isabela: areas around Cauayan and

Cagayan: Tuguegarao, Iguig, Amulung, Allacapan, Abulog, Ballestetos and Claveria); and in Region I: Illocos Norte, Illocos Sud and Pangasinan. Findings of the mission showed that Region II and Region III are the worst affected. Approximately 100,000 – 120,000 farmers' households in Region I, II and III lost 100% of their production and assets. According to the assessment, emergency supplies of rice and vegetable seeds, fertilizers and repair of damaged small scale irrigation are of highest priority for the affected farmers before the coming dry season in November/December. If no timely support is provided, it will have a significant, negative impact on the next harvest season and on the recovery and preservation of food and livelihood security of the affected and vulnerable farmer households.

Humanitarian response: FAO is the Agriculture sector co-lead with the DA in the Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA), which is initiated by the Ministry of Finance and coordinated by the World Bank. A PDNA inter agency field assessment will take place from 27 to 29 October 2009 in four regions (I, II, IV and CAR). Various organizations, including the DA and other government departments, WB, FAO, ADB, JICA are planning to participate in this assessment. The FAO–DA assessment team briefed the selected PDNA agriculture teams to ensure that other affected areas will be assessed to ensure complementarily in the identification of gaps in information on needs. The FAO Emergency and Rehabilitation Team, in close collaboration with the FAO Representative, continues its effort to boost the emergency response and focuses on strengthening the cluster coordination in close collaboration with the DA and other relevant government actors; the Agriculture cluster is in the process of revising the Flash Appeal for the Philippines and is including the latest data on damages and losses from the affected areas.

Gaps: The funding requirements for immediate relief assistance for the affected farmers remain under-funded.

Early Recovery

Humanitarian response: The Early Recovery Cluster met on 26 October to discuss the revision of the flash appeal and cluster involvement in the PDNA process. The cluster plans to gather existing early recovery needs data to identify gaps and see whether further assessment focusing on early recovery dimensions is needed.

Education

Humanitarian needs: As classes have already started, there is an urgent need for more school supplies and teaching-learning materials for affected children and teachers.

Humanitarian response: To make up for hours lost at school, the use of modularized instruction which allows students to study at home is being explored. An assessment of schools and day cares was conducted in Pililla, Jala-jala, Baras, and Talim Island in Rizal. In collaboration with partners, schools clean-up was carried out in Tonay. School packs and 1 library/recreation set were provided to more than 4,200 children in Pinagbuhatan Elementary School IN Pasig City. Also puppetry presentations on children's experiences were made for psychosocial support to the pupils.

Gaps: Cluster assessment and response in Northern Luzon to be strengthened.

Emergency Shelter

Humanitarian Needs: DSWD reports as of 22 Oct, typhoons "Ketsana" and "Parma" damaged 183,627 houses, of which 163,162 are partially damaged and 20,465 are totally damaged. Heavily affected areas are Regions I, III, IV-A and National Capital Region (NCR). Based on information from the National Housing Authority (NHA) on existing relocation sites, the government has started relocating people to Towerville in San Jose Del Monte, Bulacan, in Sta. Rosa and Binan, Laguna (those displaced coming from Marikina and Pasig).

Humanitarian response: The Shelter Cluster has identified priority geographic areas of Regions I, III, IV-A and NCR. Target families are those with damaged houses in low-risk and high-risk areas. To date, eight organizations have planned shelter interventions for over 50,000 households. This includes distribution of shelter NFIs, provision of repair or shelter kits, and transitional shelter. It is expected that more NGOs will submit funding request for shelter activities under the Flash Appeal revision.

Gaps: While in some areas - such as in Pangasinan - the floodwaters have receded, the water is expected to remain for at least two or three more months in other areas. It is likely that more shelter needs will be identified in the coming months.

Food

Humanitarian needs: Food needs continue to be high, and as assessments come in, a more complete picture of the food situation emerges. These assessments are focused on the profile of populations affected by Tropical Storm Ketsana, as well as Typhoon Parma, with particular emphasis on poor farmers and their families who have lost their crops. This will be linked with the DA-FAO agriculture needs assessment which has just been finalized.

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Humanitarian response: Increased food requirements and extended timeframe through March 2010 as well as early recovery activities for the poorest farmers affected by serious crop failure will be reflected in the revised UN Flash Appeal which is currently under preparation. A Food Cluster Coordination Meeting is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, 27 October inviting NGOs, relevant government authorities and UN agencies. The meeting aims to discuss NGO partners' activities in various regions affected by Tropical Storm Ketsana and Typhoon Parma as well as to share information regarding the proposed food intervention strategy through March 2010.

The DA and FAO presented preliminary results of the Agriculture Needs Assessment that was conducted last week. The assessment aimed to demonstrate the extent of crop loss and infrastructure damage from the floods caused by Tropical Storm Ketsana and Typhoon Parma. The outcome of the assessment is important in helping WFP to finalize its food assistance strategy for the coming 5 months. The dispatch of 4,800 MT of locally-purchased WFP rice is on-going in coordination with Provincial Level Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) offices in Regions I, II, III, IV/A, CAR (Cordillera Administrative Region) and NCR (National Capital Region). The procurement process for additional 10,000 tons of rice is underway to meet the requirements for coming months. An additional 100 tons of high energy biscuits were airlifted to Manila from Turkey early Saturday morning and are currently being allocated. WFP is deploying an international food technologist this week to evaluate the immediate possibilities for local production of ready to use supplementary foods/high energy biscuits.

Gaps: As of 23 October, \$12.4 million has been confirmed out of total \$19.7 million required for food assistance in the EMOP (the current Flash Appeal figure). \$2 million out of total \$6.7 million has been mobilized for the two Special Operations. Urgent resource mobilization is needed to meet outstanding food requirements. Given the significant number of people in need of assistance compared to available resources, prioritization for food distribution is challenging and therefore causing delays in some areas. The Regional and Provincial Disaster Coordinating Councils (RDCCs and PDCCs) are working to address this situation.

Health

Humanitarian needs: Damages to 17 Government Hospitals, 110 Municipal Health Centers, and 7 LGU Hospitals amount to PhP1 billion. Confirmed Leptospirosis outbreak in 3 municipalities with 2,089 confirmed cases, and 162 reported deaths.

Humanitarian response: In response to the increased number of cases and fatality due to Leptospirosis, at the request of DOH and WHO, a team of experts from the Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network (GOARN) will arrive in Manila on Monday, 27 October. Mobile health care services and psychosocial program coverage has increased, thanks to the expansion of service by Medecines Sans Frontieres, Australian Aid International, MERLIN, Save the Children, Community Friends Services International (CFSI), Plan International, Philippines National Red Cross (PNRC), Handicap International, and CWRSA. The main causes of morbidity are: Upper respiratory tract infections, Diarrhea, and Pneumonia.

Gaps: Pocket areas in NCR are yet to be reached by medical care service: high burden of Leptospirosis in referral hospitals in NCR might limit hospital bed availability for other less critical cases. Disease surveillance system and reporting system must be urgently strengthened.

Logistics

Humanitarian response: Over the last three days, the Logistics Cluster has sent 13 trucks to Regions I, II, IV-A and CAR to deliver mixed goods for the DSWD for onward transport to distribution points.

A UPS warehouse supervisor from the Logistics Emergency Team (LET) was at the NROC on 24 October to observe the operation and plan how to speed up operations. Starting today (Monday, October 26), three warehouse staff from Agility will be present to help with inventory, stock positioning and dispatch. The Logistics Cluster will be hiring 20 labourers to help load delivery trucks.

On 27 October a MI-171s will be going to La Trinidad for a joint NDCC, DSWD, DOH and Logistics Cluster mission to map road accessibility and assess the possibility of installing a bailey bridge following a request by the NDCC. The Benguet PDCC will be coordinating the areas to be targeted. The other helicopter will be flying out of Tanay for a few days to deliver WFP rice and DSWD family packs to isolated locations in Tanay, Cardona and Binangonan. The Logistics Cluster is organizing trucks to the Laguna de Bay area to pre-position the cargo. This effort is aimed at providing relief goods for 38,000 beneficiaries in the affected areas to the south in response to the received NDCC priorities.

Gap: Forward planning with the DSWD is being worked out to facilitate a continued plan of action for transport support from the Logistics Cluster.

Protection

Humanitarian needs: A high number of families living or displaced from at-risk areas will need permanent relocation from their areas of origin. While this is a necessary measure, there is a need to support the

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relocation process to ensure sustainability, i.e. that infra-structure is available, families have access to basic services and livelihoods in the areas of destination, and that further vulnerabilities do not arise. Some of the issues preliminarily identified refer to the difficulties in accessing jobs and livelihoods, and the loss of birth registries and other registries as well as personal ID documents.

Humanitarian response: The Protection Cluster will assess more in depth the situation of affected persons, including those who have relocated, to be able to plan and coordinate support activities in a targeted way through programming addressing the most vulnerable, such as women and children, and persons with special needs.

Gaps: Main constraints from the protection perspective refer to the wide geographical area to be covered and the limited knowledge still available on the specific vulnerabilities of poor and rural families during the early relief and recovery phases.

Child Protection

Humanitarian needs: There is a need for registration of missing, unaccompanied and separated children. There is an urgent need for assessments to verify reports of families separated during evacuation in the North. Impacts on psychosocial well-being are becoming evident with increased depression and anger, now further exacerbated due to uncertainty with regards to closure of evacuation centers. Further concerns include high levels of distress in Northern affected areas, the impact of the disaster on street and working children, and increased vulnerabilities to trafficking, violence (including gender based and domestic violence), sexual abuse and exploitation in affected areas and evacuation centers.

Humanitarian response: The government Council for the Welfare of Children (CWC), which chairs the Child Protection Working Group (CPWG), has agreed to the proposed guidance note for the registration of separated and unaccompanied children. This will be shared with the CPWG for comments and adoption. CWC also plans to mobilize its Regional Sub-Committees to initiate registration particularly in the most affected areas in CAR, Region I and Region III. Another NGO (CFSI) has joined the 47 NGOs and CBOs undertaking child protection and psychosocial activities in at least 98 areas in NCR, Rizal, Laguna, Bulacan and Benguet with over 11,000 children reached.

Gaps: Strategies to scale-up child protection activities are being developed to reach additional affected areas. Additional constraints are the lack of technical capacity and resources. Training, capacity building and distribution of supplies to support psychosocial support and other CP activities are currently underway. There is a need to develop alternative care arrangements for separated/unaccompanied children. Lack of access and operational partners in the Northern areas are also areas of concern.

Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene

Humanitarian needs: The priorities continue to be access to safe water, sanitation facilities and hygiene items in the relocation centres and in residential areas affected by the floods. Rehabilitation and improvement of drainage, solid waste collection and vector control.

Humanitarian response: Emergency activities in Metro Manila are decreasing as water is receding in affected areas. Flooded barangays next to Laguna Lake in Rizal and Laguna are still experiencing many problems. UNICEF is proposing to bring in a drainage expert, who has knowledge of the Manila drainage system. Drinking water is being supplied to the flood affected areas in metro Manila by MWSS, though the water network or through water tankers. MWSS reports they are no longer receiving requests through their complaints hotline. The main WASH-related problem continues to be safe excreta disposal, including the cleaning and emptying septic tanks at evacuation centers. Key initiatives to address the problem include:

- 1) An assessment of flood related waste management by UNICEF and partners continues. New areas visited include Marikina (waste collection still ongoing, expected to be completed within a week, temporary transfer stations issue still to be addressed) and in San Mateo municipality, Rizal province with Handicap International (HI). Waste collection in San Mateo is far from being completed making people live in poor hygiene conditions and likely to be one of the roots of high prevalence of leptospirosis in some of the visited barangays.
- 2) Mediciens Sans Frontier-France (MSF-F) is constructing latrines and showers in evacuation centers in Angono in Rizal which will hopefully be in operation by the end of the week.
- 3) Mediciens Sans Frontier-Switzerland (MSF-S) Are constructing latrines and showers in evacuation centers in San Pedro and Taytay municipalities
- 4) Oxfam are conducting latrine construction, hygiene kit distribution and hygiene promotion in both Rizal and Laguna Provinces.

- 5) Save Children have submitted details of their needs assessments in Laguna Province, including San Pedro, Binan Municipalities to the Cluster.
- 6) Merlin are conducting an assessment of WASH and other health-related issues in Angolo municipality in cooperation with the Department of Health
- 7) Action Against Hunger-Spain (ACF) continues to provide drinking water, solid waste disposal and distribution of hygiene kits in Marikina municipality. All emergency activities will be completed by the end of the week.
- 8) FSD are starting hygiene promotion activities in most evacuation centers on the west bank of Laguna. Training of six Civil Defense officers will commence this week.
- 9) Bureau of Fire Protection has completed 70% clean-up of government, school buildings and village infrastructure in Cainta municipality.

The WATER Cluster meeting took place on Monday, 26th October. Two technical working group meetings, one on excreta disposal and the other on contingency planning also took place last Friday. A strategy for improving excreta disposal/management is being discussed both in Evacuation Centres and in flooded communities. Sub-cluster coordination mechanisms are now being set up in both Laguna and Rizal. A cluster coordination meeting at the provincial level is scheduled for this week.

Gaps:

The major concern of organizations operating in flood-affected areas is to reduce the health risks associated with water-borne diseases, i.e. acute watery diarrhea and cholera. Identifying appropriate means for safe excreta disposal in flooded/high water tables is proving challenging for all the WATER/WASH actors. WASH/WATER partners have requested the Cluster to review standard hygiene kits contents, as some items are considered expensive, and some items, such as nappies, create waste management problems.

Emergency Telecommunications

Humanitarian needs: TSF and the UNDAC team are reviewing the situation and are in discussion with the NDCC regarding the length of their deployment. Security VHF telecomms repeater installation at RCBC has been completed. The testing of coverage in Metro Manila and into Region IV-A is ongoing. No UN/humanitarian sub-office needs identified at this stage. The cluster continues to provide technical support to the humanitarian community in Metro Manila.

Humanitarian response: Negotiations are underway with authorities together with UNDSS to secure repeater sites in Metro Manila and frequency licensing ongoing. The cluster continues to provide technical support to the humanitarian community in Metro Manila. Flash appeal budget is being revised downwards to \$319,000 considering that no need for Humanitarian sub-offices has been identified.

Gaps: Northern Metro Manila VHF security communications repeater coverage is limited. Wide-area security communications repeater coverage is also limited (Region IV-A).

IV. Coordination

A cluster-lead meeting was held on Monday, 26 October to discuss the revision of the Flash Appeal and categories proposed.

V. Funding

As of 26 October, the Financial Tracking System indicates that \$22.175 million has been pledged or contributed to the Flash Appeal. This represents approximately 30.1% of total requirements as initially assessed (\$74 million).

All humanitarian partners including donors and recipient agencies are encouraged to inform FTS of cash and in-kind contributions by sending an email to: fts@reliefweb.int.

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For more information on the humanitarian response in the Philippines, please visit:
<http://www.un.org.ph/response.html>