

UNICEF Humanitarian Action 2010

PHILIPPINES

SITUATION UPDATE

The Philippines was struck by a series of typhoons which caused massive flooding and landslides toward the end of 2009. Typhoons Ketsana (locally known as Ondoy) and Parma (locally known as Pepeng) affected over six million people and forced over 700,000 people into evacuation centres. Nine months later, there are just over 7,000 people who remain displaced in these centres.¹ In addition to these natural disasters, more than 100,000 people, half of whom are children,² remain displaced in Mindanao as a result of the armed conflict between government forces and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF). In both emergencies, some displaced people were able to return, but they are still in need of humanitarian support and basic services as their communities have been heavily affected by the effects of natural and man-made disasters. It is important to adapt the emergency response to meet their needs in order to make their return sustainable. Grave violations against children continue to be perpetrated by all parties to the conflict in the Philippines. There have been a greater number of children killed and injured owing to the armed conflict during this reporting period compared with the previous reporting period.

KEY RESULTS FOR CHILDREN

Health: Approximately 1.5 million children are benefitting from the Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) vaccines given during routine and emergency immunizations. In addition, local health facilities are better prepared to monitor the emergency health response after UNICEF strengthened local data validation and provided health supplies.

Nutrition: Over 1,500 children were screened through the development of the community management of acute malnutrition (CMAM) programme, and were provided with ready-to-use therapeutic foods and multiple micronutrient powders. In the wake of the typhoons, women in flood-affected communities were supported to breastfeed their children or encouraged to move from mixed feeding to exclusive breastfeeding. UNICEF is also training midwives, community health workers and nutrition scholars in Infant Feeding in Emergencies.

WASH: With its partners, UNICEF continues to deliver WASH services to at least 18,000 people who were affected by last year's typhoons. In target sites, soap and water containers were provided to 5,000 families. In schools, about 9,000 children now have access to improved WASH facilities, and health campaigns have been launched in evacuation camps and return areas. In addition, municipal sanitary inspectors are better trained for water testing, quality mapping and community and household water treatment and storage.

Child Protection: Following the signing of the UN – Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) Action Plan and the issuance of Supplemental General Order in January 2010, MILF has reiterated its commitment to the non-recruitment of children and providing sanctions for non-compliance within its ranks, which has further safeguarded children under the age of 18 years. The development of a Rapid Registration and Family Tracing and Reunification system has begun to reunite separated and unaccompanied children with their families. In addition, psychosocial activities reached over 100,000 children in 255 child-friendly spaces, and social workers, disaster managers and NGO partners underwent training in Child Protection in Emergencies.

Education: Children in emergency-affected areas were able to continue their education through the construction of temporary learning facilities and the distribution of Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) materials, child packs, and books for elementary and high school libraries. Schools also received teacher packs and disaster risk reduction manuals to better prepare themselves for emergencies.

HIV/AIDS: Youth were trained and supported to reach out to their peers with basic information on HIV advocacy, prevention and referral. Outreach sessions reached 1,656 emergency-affected youth below the age of 25 (963 male, 693 female).

KEY CHALLENGES

Information management continues to be a key challenge. The routine system was unprepared to cope with the emergencies of 2009. The ability to respond to women and children's needs were hampered as data analysis at

¹ Mobile and Vulnerable Population Displacement Tracking Report, International Organisation for Migration, June 2010.

² OCHA Situation Report 11 June 2010.

national and regional levels were limited and made it difficult to prioritize worst-off populations and measure interventions against a baseline. It was also found that many Local Government Units (LGUs) still do not prioritize Child Protection and Education interventions in emergencies. In addition, unpredictable movements of internally displaced people made service delivery difficult.

INTER-AGENCY COLLABORATION

UNICEF continues to provide leadership with its Government counterparts in the Education, WASH, and Nutrition Clusters, as well as the Child Protection Sub-Cluster, while actively participating in joint assessments, mapping of agency activities, and formulating standards and policies related to thematic areas. UNICEF also continues to work closely with the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs on inter-cluster coordination.

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

As of early June 2010, UNICEF had received 19 per cent of the funds requested as part of the Humanitarian Action Report. Funds were received from a multitude of sources, including national committees, the Central Emergency Response Fund and various bilateral donors. The support received thus far, in addition to carry-over funds from 2009 Flash Appeal for the tropical storm Ketsana (locally known as Ondoy), has ensured the continuation of UNICEF's response to the humanitarian emergency. However, UNICEF continues to seek funds for emergency preparedness and response for the upcoming typhoon season as part of UNICEF sector-specific preparedness, but also as a way to provide contingency funds for the UNICEF priority clusters. There is high likelihood that women, children and communities already left vulnerable by conflicts or natural disasters will be susceptible to further calamities. Typhoons are expected to be fewer in number this year; however, due to it being an El Niño year, they are expected to be much stronger in the second half of 2010. Additionally, the Philippines are under the constant threat of earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, tsunamis, flooding, landslides as well as the threat of an escalation of conflict in the south.

Funds received against the HAR 2010 (US\$)				
Sector	Original 2010 HAR requirements	Revised HAR requirements	Funds received	Funding gap
Health	4,000,000	4,000,000	444,935	3,555,065
Nutrition	1,000,000	1,000,000	685,790	314,210
Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	6,000,000	6,000,000	1,022,409	4,977,591
Education	3,200,000	3,200,000	34,698	3,165,302
Child Protection	3,500,000	3,500,000	1,204,425	2,295,575
HIV/AIDs	190,000	190,000	88,198	101,802
Total*	17,890,000	17,890,000	3,480,455	14,409,545

*The total includes a maximum recovery rate of 7%. The actual recovery rate on contributions will be calculated in accordance with UNICEF Executive Board Decision 2006/7 dated 9 June 2006.

EMERGENCY PROGRAMME PRIORITIES: JULY – DECEMBER 2010

Health:

- Emergency preparedness activities will be integrated into regular annual planning, and supplies such as emergency health kits will be repositioned to ensure the humanitarian health needs of at least 40,000 people.
- One million doses of measles vaccines will be procured to replenish those used during emergencies in 2010.

Nutrition:

- The screening and treatment of malnourished children will continue through improving the community management of acute malnutrition programme in Mindanao.
- In preparation for the upcoming typhoon season, UNICEF will focus on meeting the nutritional needs of 25,000 children and pregnant women through repositioning supplies and identifying vulnerable communities.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene:

- Services for communities in return areas will be supported by improving and continuing access to safe water and sanitation facilities for at least 9,000 children in schools.

- A joint assessment on WASH in conflict-affected areas will be conducted, and respective clusters and local partners will modify their response based on the findings. UNICEF will also lead an exercise to ensure preparedness of partners for the coming Typhoon season.

Education:

- The integration of education in emergencies in development plans will be developed while training frontline workers and Cluster members in Minimum Standards in Education in Emergencies.
- The educational needs of 54,000 emergency-affected children, particularly in Mindanao, will be met through the resumption of regular classes or implementation of alternative delivery modes of education.

Child Protection:

- Over 100,000 children will benefit from child-friendly spaces in emergency-affected areas, and parents and community workers will be provided with child protection training particularly in Mindanao.
- UNICEF will continue to ensure that separated and unaccompanied children have equal access to basic services throughout areas affected by emergencies, particularly Mindanao, while working for their reunion with their families. In addition, prevention activities will be conducted for children who are at risk of being recruited into armed groups, while those already associated with such groups will be registered and supported with reintegration services.

HIV/AIDS:

- Gender-and-age sensitive strategies for delivering information about HIV prevention and treatment during emergencies will be developed by UNICEF and Health and other concerned Clusters.