Latest from the Philippines – Bohol Earthquake Emergency

SITUATION OF CHILDREN AND WOMEN

A 7.2 magnitude earthquake struck the Bohol province in central Philippines on 15 October 2013. As of 31 October 2013, the damage caused by the earthquake includes 222 people dead, 796 people injured and more than 3,200,000 people affected, according to the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC).

The earthquake damaged or destroyed more than 53,439 houses, displacing some 80,667 families (380,906 individuals). 14,253 houses are irreparable. The extent of the damage to houses indicates a possible prolonged displacement of the affected communities. Twenty nine per cent or about 110,000 persons are staying in some 97 evacuation centres while the rest are in community-based evacuation sites, usually makeshift tents in open spaces or roadsides in the affected communities.

The number of displaced persons is about one-third of the total population of the Bohol province, most of them concentrated in the central and northwestern parts. Both the provincial governments of Bohol and Cebu have declared a state of calamity.

RESPONDING TO URGENT NEEDS

UNICEF initiated immediate emergency response in the Bohol province through Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) and Education interventions. Aside from technical support to the ongoing government efforts, UNICEF has provided emergency supplies composed of water and hygiene kits and learning tents, worth almost US$150,000 to Bohol province. UNICEF is also working to address the following urgent needs of children and women:

- Emergency water supply systems to provide clean water in the interim need to be put in place and water systems need to be rehabilitated as basic infrastructure such as roads, power and water systems have been damaged.
- The ongoing assessments indicate that immediate nutrition interventions are needed for 1,200 children 6 to 23 months old who are at risk of severe acute malnutrition, 3,000 children who are at risk of moderate acute malnutrition and 4,200 who are at risk of global acute malnutrition. Moreover, 3,300 pregnant women and 4,100 lactating women are also at risk of malnutrition, including micronutrient deficiencies.
- Classes in Bohol remain suspended since the earthquake. About 25,000 pre-schoolers and 275,855 school children in 1,200 early learning centres and 1,092 schools (931 elementary schools and 161 high schools) need to return to school.
- Many children are suffering from profound stress as a result of the earthquake and aftershocks, and thus need support and care through the establishment of safe spaces for recreation and structured psychosocial interventions.
- Evacuation centres housing internally displaced persons lack sufficient basic services such as clean water, sanitation facilities, health facilities and temporary learning spaces.

FUNDING REQUIREMENT FOR THE BOHOL EARTHQUAKE EMERGENCY

Successive emergencies since August 2013 have stretched the resources of humanitarian responders. Additional funding is urgently needed to help aid reach the right people in time.

As part of an inter-agency appeal, UNICEF Philippines is requesting US$12,179,822 to meet the immediate needs of children and women throughout the affected areas in the coming three months.

For more information, please go to:
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UNICEF HUMANITARIAN NEEDS FOR THE BOHOL EARTHQUAKE EMERGENCY (in US Dollars):

- 7,800,000 Water, Sanitation & Hygiene
- 2,000,000 Health & Nutrition
- 1,879,822 Education & Psychosocial Support
- 500,000 Child Protection

US$12,179,822 TOTAL