Highlights

- Category 3 Typhoon Hagupit affected the Philippines from 5 to 9 December 2014
- More than 2 million people nationwide were affected and over 8,000 homes destroyed¹
- 19 casualties have been confirmed by the Government and 27 have been reported by the Philippines Red Cross
- The Government was well prepared and is leading the response
- UNICEF Philippines is providing assistance including over US$440,000 of pre-positioned emergency supplies already dispatched to affected areas
- US$3 million is being sought to replenish supplies, maintain operational capacity and fund other assistance to the government-led response
- Infrastructure and communications networks have been damaged delaying full assessments of the damage and response in the worst hit areas difficult with only patchy information available

Situation overview

On 5 December, Typhoon Hagupit (known locally as Ruby) came ashore near Dolores in the Eastern Samar Region in the Philippines, as a Category 3 Typhoon bringing maximum sustained winds of 175 kmh and torrential rains of more than 20 mm/hour. It was very slow moving and affected this region for more than a day before passing through Samar and making landfall on Masbate Island on 7 December having further weakened to a Category 2 Typhoon. Hagupit continued to move through the Philippines as a tropical storm until 9 December 2014.

Government preparations were well planned and incorporated lessons learned from last year’s experience with Typhoon Haiyan. Around 1.7 million people were evacuated in Regions IV, V, VI, VII, VIII and XIII. A ‘state of calamity’ has been declared in the provinces of Albay, Camarines Sur, Catanduanes, San Pablo City Laguna and Masbate.

¹ Official figures from the Government of the Philippines are available from the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC).

However, the worst affected provinces are likely to be Eastern Samar, Northern Samar and Samar. The extent of damages and needs in Samar are still unclear as communication networks are disrupted and some roads unpassable.

Due to forecasts of a ‘super typhoon’ strength event with a path similar to Super Typhoon Haiyan in 2013, Hagupit received significant media attention. However the impact has not been of Haiyan’s magnitude.

The area of Samar island worst affected by Typhoon Haiyan just over one year ago is south of Typhoon Hagupit’s path. Albay Province, which experienced strong winds and storm surges on 5-6 December, is also affected by evacuations around Mayon Volcano, which has been active since October 2014 affecting around 60,000 people.

Humanitarian leadership and coordination

The Government is leading and coordinating the response and has mobilised its eight response clusters. Humanitarian clusters have not been activated and limited requests have been made by the national government for international assistance. The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) is providing regular reporting and is currently organising rapid assessments. Any assessments by humanitarian partners are to be conducted using government assessment tools and the results submitted to the Government for coordination. UNICEF is participating in the government response cluster coordination meetings. Regular UN Inter-agency meetings are being held in Manila in support of the Government-led response. UNICEF is however responding to requests from local governments in Samar.

Disaster preparedness and initial response

In addition to the extensive DRR efforts following Typhoon Haiyan, UNICEF Philippines undertook specific disaster preparedness actions in the days leading up to Typhoon Hagupit. These actions built on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) planning and pre-positioning of emergency response supplies for around 12,000 families and repositioning supplies to best meet the projected emergency needs. UNICEF’s Tacloban office, established after Super Typhoon Haiyan, activated emergency readiness planning last week, putting its 54 staff on standby to deploy to affected areas and to work with the government and partners to assist evacuees.

Supply and Logistics

- Pre-positioned supplies have been dispatched to Oras and Dolores in north-eastern Samar at the request of the government. More supplies are being moved internally to locations closed to the affected areas in anticipation of further requests.

- Allocations made under long-term funding agreements, emergency clauses with existing partners and long-term agreements for logistics will allow distribution of additional supplies and response if needed.

WASH

- Prepositioned WASH supplies can immediately provide life-saving interventions for 12,000 families.

- WASH supplies already delivered to Municipalities of Dolores and Oras in Eastern Samar include:
  - two water trucking bladders that can serve up to 3,200 people per day
  - water purification tabs for up to 660 people for one month
  - water and hygiene kits for 5,000 people for one month
  - 100 4x5m tarpaulins

- Additional WASH supplies have been prepositioned in Samar for immediate distribution following further assessments and request from government. These include water treatment and storage materials, generators and a water treatment unit equipped that can serve around 5,000 people.

Health

- UNICEF has participated in coordination meetings with the Department of Health in Region VIII to support needs and gap assessments.

- Health kits for 10,000 people and diarrhoea kits to treat 600 cases have been dispatched to Samar at the request of the Department of Health in Region VIII. More supplies are being moved to affected areas

- Two generators have been dispatched to support Rural Health Units in Samar
Nutrition

- UNICEF Tacloban nutrition staff are supporting the government’s nutrition cluster meetings on coordination of ongoing assessment efforts in Region VIII, particularly in Samar, Eastern Samar, and Northern Samar.
- WHO and UNICEF have released a joint statement supporting the Department of Health’s ban on the donation of milk formula towards protecting, supporting and promoting breastfeeding in the typhoon affected areas.
- UNICEF undertook Nutrition Cluster Capacity Mapping during the preparedness phase. The capacity map is being reviewed and updated currently to inform the National Nutrition Cluster of potential operational areas of support by cluster partners, should the need arise.
- UNICEF is ready to support government requests for assistance through pre-positioned stocks of micronutrient supplements, community management of acute malnutrition (CMAM) commodities, and other essential nutrition supplies and emergency clauses with current partners.

Education

- Technical assistance and staff support is being provided to the national office of the Department of Education (DepED) for “Ruby” related infographics
- Support for the re-activation of the government’s National Education Cluster being led by DepED
- Support to DepED assessments by disseminating RADAR (Rapid Assessment of Damages Report) forms to partner development agencies and local government units.
- Pre-positioning of education-related supplies/materials for possible delivery-support upon completion of post-typhoon assessments and receipt of formal government requests

Child Protection

- Anecdotal evidence from Regions VI and VIII suggest that the most urgent need is psychosocial support for children. Children expressed both fear and anxiety at the onset and in the wake of Typhoon Hagupit.
- Key child protection messages in English and local languages have been shared by UNICEF to Child Protection Working Group partners in Regions VI and VIII. These messages in turn have been distributed to families and caregivers in evacuation sites. Messages shared have provided tips on protecting children in emergencies, providing basic psychosocial support to children and how to identify and refer a child that is separated or unaccompanied.
- UNICEF has supported, as co-lead, a special meeting of the Government’s National Child Protection Working Group in Manila and the Regional Child Protection Working Group in Region VI. The meetings were used as a forum to discuss and share immediate child protection concerns reported after Typhoon Hagupit and partners’ capacity to respond to these needs.

Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)

Following Super Typhoon Haiyan, UNICEF worked closely with Local Government Units (LGUs) to develop hazard maps and disaster preparedness plans. UNICEF will be working with these LGUs in the coming weeks and months to assess the effectiveness of these measures in reducing the impact of Typhoon Hagupit.

Communications

Communications materials including daily key messages, photos, video clips, two press releases and 25 interviews given by UNICEF Philippines have been published and shared globally. http://www.unicef.org/philippines/media.html
Funding
UNICEF is seeking an initial US$3 million to replenish the pre-positioned supplies that have been dispatched, meet anticipated future requests and maintain operational capacity.

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<th>Sector</th>
<th>Total Requirements US$</th>
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<tr>
<td>Water, Sanitation &amp; Hygiene</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nutrition</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
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