Super Typhoon Rai/Odette

Highlights

- Typhoon Rai (local name Odette) entered the Philippines on 14 December as a category 5, making the first landfall in Siargao Island, Surigao del Norte on 16 December. It made eight more landfalls in four regions (ACAPS, 19 December). It brought torrential rains, violent winds, floods, and storm surges. Overnight, the typhoon resulted in death and injuries, left thousands of families homeless, and interrupted essential service delivery.

- Building on its solid preparedness plans, UNICEF and its partners were among the first responders to the humanitarian impact of the typhoon. At the beginning of January, UNICEF activated its contingency partnerships with Action Against Hunger, Children and Family Services International, and Plan International to support the WASH, child protection, and education in emergencies response in the typhoon-affected communities.

- To date, UNICEF has reached over 45,000 individuals with emergency WASH supplies. More than 2,700 individuals had improved access to temporary district hospitals and rural health units established in the tents and/or to COVID-19 infection prevention and control measures.

- UNICEF appeals for US$11.48 million to reach at least 200,000 children and their families who are most affected. Almost one month into the emergency, UNICEF has received US$4.4 million (38%), leaving a funding gap of US$7 million (62%).

Situation Overview and Humanitarian Needs

Sixteen million people currently live in the severely affected areas, with 2.4 million needing assistance. The Government of the Philippines reported widespread humanitarian impact, among others: 41,719 individuals are still hosted in evacuation centres, and more than 1.36 million houses and 2,057 schools are damaged.

Children bear the brunt of this climate crisis where child protection services have been disrupted. The likelihood of prolonged disruption of livelihoods may foster push factors for online and offline sexual abuse and exploitation, child labor, and child and human trafficking, among others. The repairs on damaged schools will take several months and will significantly hamper the return of children. Distance learning is also impacted as households focus on recovery, shelters are affected, and the home learning environment is disrupted. The education sector estimates that 217 million children will need education in emergencies support, while the sector targets 520,000 most vulnerable children. The child protection partners target 98,700 most vulnerable children with child protection in emergencies services.
UNICEF is seriously concerned about the dire WASH situation in the typhoon-affected communities which could quickly lead to the further spread of diarrhoea and other WASH-related diseases, as well as the resurgence of COVID-19 infections. An estimated 2.3 million people need WASH assistance, while the WASH cluster will target 520,000 with emergency WASH services.

The health and nutrition services in the affected areas have also been disrupted. The populations are likely to experience outbreaks of diseases and acute malnutrition, in addition to the continued disruption of essential health services. The surge of COVID-19 cases is expected due to complications related to hygiene management and infection prevention and control. The nutrition of 2.6 million people is affected. The cluster targets 345,000 people, including 275,000 children under 5 years of age.

Funding Overview and Partnerships

UNICEF’s response to Typhoon Rai/Odette is supported by the United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund to provide life-saving supplies and support WASH, child protection, and education services in 12 municipalities in the provinces of Surigao del Norte, Dinagat Islands, and Southern Leyte.

With the Philippine Government’s acceptance of the Humanitarian Country Team’s offer of assistance, UNICEF – together with the United Nations and the humanitarian community – finalized its Humanitarian Needs and Priorities document which appeals for US$107 million to serve affected communities. UNICEF appeals for US$11.48 million to reach 200,000 most affected children with essential life-saving interventions. As of 12 of January 2022, the appeal had a critical funding gap of around 62 per cent or US$7 million. Education, health, and WASH are the most underfunded sectors, with funding gaps of 75, 75, and 58 per cent, respectively.

UNICEF’s humanitarian preparedness and response programme to Typhoon Rai/Odette aims to assist the most vulnerable children and families in partnership with government agencies (i.e., the Department of Health [DOH], the National Nutrition Council, the Department of Education [DepEd], and Child Protection Working Groups and their sub-national counterparts), national and international non-governmental organizations (i.e., Action Against Hunger, Community and Family Services International [CFSI], Plan International [PI], and Samaritan’s Purse) and the United Nations agencies.

Summary of Programme Response

Building on its solid preparedness plans, UNICEF and its partners were among the first responders to the humanitarian impact of the Typhoon. As of 11 January, UNICEF activated its contingency partnerships with Action Against Hunger, CFSI, and PI to support the WASH, child protection, and education in emergencies response in the typhoon-affected communities.

WASH

UNICEF provided the DOH with emergency WASH supplies that reached more than 45,000 individuals. Additional supplies which include 3,000 water containers, 1,058 family hygiene and dignity kits, 13,630 water purification tablets, 11 water tanks of up to 10,000 litres, chlorine bleaching powder, latrine add-ons, pan and P traps, squatting plates, plastic tarpaulin fire retardant sheets, 12,000 face masks, and 4,000 hand sanitizers have also been released to Action Against Hunger – one of UNICEF’s implementing partners for the CARAGA response – to reach an estimated 6,000 individuals.

In-country WASH contingency stocks are available for humanitarian response, and adequate WASH emergency supplies are prepositioned at UNICEF warehouses. Technical and coordination support to WASH clusters at the national and sub-national levels, including assessments, continue and are being intensified to deliver supplies and services to arrest the increasing cases of WASH-related diseases.

Health

UNICEF has prepositioned supplies that can be mobilized for infection prevention and control of COVID-19, and upon the request of the DOH in CARAGA has dispatched 200 modular tents to support physical distancing measures of up to 600 individuals. In addition, seven 72 sqm tents and eighteen 42 sqm tents were used as temporary district hospitals and rural health units for Siargao Island, Dinagat Islands, and Surigao City, which can benefit up to 2,100 individuals.
UNICEF also initiated the procurement of interagency emergency health kits to reach 85,000 persons in need of essential health services, and acute watery diarrhoea kits to treat 2,200 cases of acute gastroenteritis to be distributed in Southern Leyte and CARAGA. Finally, UNICEF will provide key messages and Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) materials for frontline workers and communities on minimum public health standards.

**Nutrition**

UNICEF continuously provides coordination and technical support to government partners at the national, regional, and provincial levels to identify and prioritize the nutrition needs of infants, young children, and pregnant women and adolescents. In addition, UNICEF hired Nutrition Cluster Information Management Officers and Nutrition Cluster Coordinators to support the affected regions on coordination and information management.

As one of the priority needs, UNICEF is committed to supporting the treatment of Severe Acute Malnutrition of children under 5 years of age. In that regard, UNICEF dispatched to CARAGA 1,811 cartons of Ready to Use Therapeutic Food (RUTF). Southern Leyte has received 246 cartons, and an additional 200 cartons of RUTF are on the way to the province to benefit 1,811 children. In addition, UNICEF supports the transportation of DOH-procured nutrition commodities and supplies (micronutrient powder, breastfeeding kits, mid-upper arm circumference tapes, and RUTF) to Regions VI, VII, VIII, X, and CARAGA.

**Child Protection**

UNICEF’s child protection programme includes facilitating access to mental health and psychosocial support services; case management for children to enable access to medical, psychological, and legal services; and RCCE to disseminate life-saving information through different online and offline platforms. UNICEF provides coordination and technical assistance to government partners to prioritize and integrate child protection principles in the typhoon response while being mindful of COVID-19 protocols and cross-cutting issues including gender, Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA), and mental health and psychosocial support. UNICEF supports the continuing scale-up activities around prevention and response to abuse, exploitation, violence, and neglect. RCCE materials for child protection and PSEA involving humanitarians have been made available through a shared drive accessible to all partners. UNICEF also released Child-Friendly Spaces with kits, including recreation kits and family tracing kits for nine affected communities in Surigao Del Norte, Siargao Island, and Dinagat Islands in CARAGA. Moreover, UNICEF supports setting up nine Child-Friendly Spaces with kits through CFSI, reaching 5,000 children and adolescents and 91 youth focal points. Once set up, these spaces will be venues for providing mental health and psychosocial support services and other protection services.

**Education**

The education in emergencies programme is one of the key priorities for UNICEF and its partners. UNICEF provided 90 learner kits to Bohol, and four schools-in-a-box were dispatched by the DepEd to CARAGA. An additional 72 sqm tent has also been delivered to the Schools Division Office of Surigao del Norte. In addition, three schools-in-a-box were received by the Schools Division Office of Southern Leyte, and another four units of 72 sqm tents by the Schools Division Office of Surigao del Sur. From this initial support, 510 learners are set to benefit.

Twenty-six schools in CARAGA (15 schools) and Region VIII (11 schools) had initiated classes in November 2021 as part of a national pilot, as in-person learning was disrupted since March 2020 due to COVID-19. Eighteen more schools in both regions were ready to start in-person classes in January 2022. However, the Typhoon has put this process at risk as many classrooms were damaged and thousands of learning materials were destroyed. New dispatches of student/learner and teacher kits, schools-in-a-box, Early Childhood Development kits, 72 sqm tents, and Education in Emergencies training are in progress. These supplies will be essential to ensure learning continuity and support the back-to-school process of 14,000 learners in the Schools Divisions of Siargao Islands, Dinagat Islands, Surigao Del Norte, Surigao City, and Southern Leyte. UNICEF continues to provide constant support to the DepEd in addressing the Typhoon’s impact on students’ learning.
Humanitarian Leadership, Coordination and Strategy

UNICEF Philippines works closely with government partners and other members of the Humanitarian Country Team and the Mindanao Humanitarian Team in monitoring the situation and response and contributing to the development of the Humanitarian Needs and Priorities document. For child protection, UNICEF has been supporting the assessment and response as co-chair of the National Child Protection Working Group. UNICEF also works with the Council for the Welfare of Children, including the Regional Sub-Committee for Children/Joint Child Protection Working Group, and the Committee on Children HIV and AIDS in the typhoon-affected regions of CARAGA and Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao. For nutrition, UNICEF serves as co-lead of the Philippine Nutrition Cluster and works closely with the National Nutrition Council. For WASH activities, UNICEF has been coordinating with the Health Emergency Management Bureau and the Disease Prevention and Control Bureau of the DOH along with WASH Cluster partners, being the cluster co-lead both at the national and sub-national (CARAGA, Southern Leyte) levels. For education, UNICEF coordinates with DepEd’s School Health Division and the WASH in Schools Technical Working Group to determine the needs of the affected population and mobilize support from partners. Lastly, UNICEF works with the Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Service of the DepEd in monitoring and disseminating information on learning in affected/exposed areas.

Human Interest Stories and External Media

UNICEF Philippines issues press releases, shares stories from the affected areas, and provides daily updates on the needs assessment and emergency response on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

Children affected by Typhoon Rai/Odette face uncertain New Year (31 December)
UNICEF calls for US$ 11M to respond to children’s needs affected by Typhoon Odette (24 December)
UNICEF sends supplies to Typhoon Odette areas; advocates needs of children (21 December)
UNICEF concerned for children in the Philippines as Typhoon Rai/Odette strike (16 December)

Next SitRep: 31 January 2022

Annex A

Funding Status

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