



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

**BUREAU FOR DEMOCRACY, CONFLICT, AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE (DCHA)
OFFICE OF U.S. FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (OFDA)**

Philippines – Typhoon

Fact Sheet #1, Fiscal Year (FY) 2011

October 20, 2010

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- On October 18, Typhoon Megi, known locally as Juan, passed over northern Luzon Island with heavy rains and sustained winds of up to 140 mph, according to the Joint Typhoon Warning Center. As of 0600 hours local time on October 20, the Government of the Republic of the Philippines (GoRP) National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) reported that the typhoon and associated flooding and landslides had killed 11 people, injured 16 others, and affected more than 215,000 individuals. Based on early reports, the NDRRMC issued a state of calamity for Isabela Province. The number of affected individuals is expected to change as additional information becomes available.
- On October 19, U.S. Chargé d’Affaires Leslie A. Bassett declared a disaster due to the effects of Typhoon Megi. In response, USAID/OFDA provided \$100,000 through USAID/Philippines for the local purchase and delivery of emergency relief commodities.
- USAID/OFDA has deployed a five-person assessment team to coordinate with other U.S. Government (USG) agencies, the GoRP, and relief organizations to assess typhoon impacts and identify humanitarian needs. The team began assessments in Isabela and Cagayan provinces on October 20 and will continue assessments in northern Luzon on October 21. The team reported that damage in the aforementioned provinces was less severe than initially expected. Municipal mayors in Isabela Province noted access to food and shelter, medicine, and agricultural inputs as priority needs.
- In response to a GoRP request for aerial support, on October 20 at 0800 hours local time, the U.S. Pacific Command (PACOM) authorized U.S. Military action for 72 hours under “life and limb” provisions. The U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) has provided four aircrafts for aerial assessments and transport of personnel and supplies. Additional assets from the Amphibious Landing Exercise remain on standby for use following the damage assessments.
- As of 1410 hours local time on October 20, official storm warnings had ended for most provinces of Luzon Island but remained in effect for parts of northwestern Luzon, where rain and wind related to Typhoon Megi continued.
- To date, the U.N. has not activated humanitarian clusters in the Philippines, as the GoRP has not requested U.N. assistance for the typhoon response.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE		SOURCE
Total Affected Population	215,037	NDRRMC – October 20
Persons Pre-emptively Evacuated	3,066	OCHA – October 18
Estimated Fatalities	11	GoRP – October 20
Estimated Injuries	16	GoRP – October 20

FY 2011 HUMANITARIAN FUNDING PROVIDED TO DATE

USAID/OFDA Assistance to Philippines\$100,000
Total USAID Humanitarian Assistance to Philippines\$100,000

CONTEXT

- According to the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), GoRP systematic disaster preparedness procedures were critical in minimizing the number of typhoon-related casualties and affected individuals. On October 16, the GoRP led a pre-emptive evacuation of nearly 3,100 people from mountainous, low-lying and other at-risk areas of northern Luzon. GoRP officials also ensured that trained response teams and relief materials were pre-positioned throughout the areas forecasted to be affected by Typhoon Megi.

Humanitarian Access

- In the immediate aftermath of Typhoon Megi, landslides, fallen trees, damaged telecommunication networks, and continued heavy rains slowed access to typhoon-affected areas.
- According to the USAID/OFDA assessment team, as of 2200 hours local time on October 20, main roads were open and passable in both Isabela and Cagayan provinces. Despite a number of damaged bridges, the assessment team reported that all areas were accessible in both provinces.

Logistics

- The U.N. World Food Program (WFP) reported that it maintains 14 boats with motors, 7 mobile storage facilities, 2 generators, and food and non-food items ready for deployment to typhoon-affected areas, as well as two heavy lift helicopters for transporting humanitarian assistance, if requested. WFP also has an agreement with Caterpillar—a construction equipment producer—for road clearing and other assistance, if required. WFP recently renewed transportation contracts with private sector companies that can rapidly deliver items to northern Luzon.

Shelter and Settlements

- According to local officials, the typhoon completely destroyed more than 5,600 houses in Isabela Province and nearly 360 others in Cagayan Province.
- NDRRMC reports indicated that as of October 19, more than 8,500 persons were staying in 52 evacuation centers throughout five regions of Luzon, with Cagayan Valley registering 18, the highest number of centers.
- According to the USAID/OFDA assessment team, as of October 20, the majority of affected individuals had departed evacuation centers in Isabela and Cagayan provinces and had either returned to areas of origin or had sought shelter with family members. In addition, a significant number of families in the two provinces had already begun to repair partially damaged houses.

Agriculture and Food Security

- According to municipal mayors, farmers had harvested an estimated 80 percent of crops in Isabela Province prior to the typhoon, limiting crop losses from the storm. However, WFP field monitors in Isabela Province observed total devastation in many rice paddies, suggesting longer-term food security concerns. Initial estimates from the GoRP Department of Agriculture (DoA) indicate that the typhoon destroyed at least 69,250 metric tons (MT) of rice and 33,000 MT of corn.
- In collaboration with the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the DoA plans to begin crop assessments in affected areas in the coming days. FAO plans to provide agriculture and fisheries inputs, such as tools and seeds, to affected areas to assist in recovery efforts, according to identified needs.

Emergency Food Assistance

- Before the landfall of Typhoon Megi, the GoRP Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) pre-positioned family food packs sufficient for more than 90,000 people in affected areas. Municipal governments are providing non-food and food assistance, including noodles, canned food, water, biscuits, and rice to affected individuals.
- WFP is distributing rice that had been prepositioned in affected areas. In coordination with DSWD, WFP also plans to distribute approximately 40 MT of high energy biscuits to affected individuals.

USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO PHILIPPINES

FY 2011			
<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE¹			
USAID/Philippines	Logistics and Relief Supplies	Affected Areas	\$100,000
TOTAL USAID/OFDA			\$100,000
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO PHILIPPINES IN FY 2011			\$100,000

¹USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of October 20, 2010.

PUBLIC DONATION INFORMATION

- The most effective way people can assist relief efforts is by making cash contributions to humanitarian organizations that are conducting relief operations. A list of humanitarian organizations that are accepting cash donations for typhoon response efforts in the Philippines can be found at www.interaction.org. Information on organizations responding to the humanitarian situation in the Philippines may be available at www.reliefweb.int.
- USAID encourages cash donations because they allow aid professionals to procure the exact items needed (often in the affected region); reduce the burden on scarce resources (such as transportation routes, staff time, warehouse space, etc); can be transferred very quickly and without transportation costs; support the economy of the disaster-stricken region; and ensure culturally, dietary, and environmentally appropriate assistance.
- More information can be found at:
 - USAID: www.usaid.gov – Keyword: Donations
 - The Center for International Disaster Information: www.cidi.org or (703) 276-1914
 - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at www.reliefweb.int

USAID/OFDA bulletins appear on the USAID web site at http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/humanitarian_assistance/disaster_assistance/