

# Alert

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## Philippines

# Typhoon Haima

Bangkok, 20 October 2016

### 1. Brief description of the emergency and impact

Late Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2016, Super Typhoon Haima (also called Lawin) in the Philippines wrought havoc into the north-eastern Philippine coast with ferocious winds and rain that rekindled fears and memories from the catastrophe wrought by Typhoon Haiyan in 2013. Typhoon Haima, which has sustained winds of 225 km/h and gusts of up to 315 km/h, had its landfall in Penablanca town in Cagayan province shortly before midnight. Many villages lost power and intense winds tore roofs off houses.

On 20<sup>th</sup> October 2016 before dawn, Typhoon Haima was downgraded from a super typhoon into a typhoon. In its bulletin issued at 5 am on October 20, Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) reported that Typhoon Haima slightly weakened as it crossed Apayao, another province that was in the Tropical Cyclone Warning Signal (TCWS No.5). It now has maximum winds of up to 205 km/h and gustiness of up to 285 km/h. However, the state weather bureau, PAGASA, warned that it remains destructive. Based on the profile created by UNOCHA, 100km radius of the typhoon track covers 13 provinces (185 cities/municipalities).

Various transmission lines in Northern Luzon have been cut due to Typhoon Haima, affecting La Union, Isabela, Cagayan, Abra, Benguet, Mountain Province, Ilocos Norte, Ilocos Sur, Ifugao, Nueva Vizcaya and Quirino, according to the National Grid Corporation of the Philippines. Communication lines remain down and landslides in the national highway in Nueva Ecija rendered the roads impassable. The focus of local authorities as reported is on clearing the roads and restoring basic services.

### 2. Why is an ACT response needed?

While there are no reports on damages and needs from the affected areas yet as the local authorities are still assessing the damages, it is estimated that 5 million people (2.46M women/ 2.54M men) or 1,045,000 households may have been affected. Of these, 175,000 households are considered poorest of the poor and are beneficiaries of the governments regular cash transfer program (Pantawid Pamilya).

### 3. National and international response

Assessment teams from the OCHA and other humanitarian agencies through the Philippines International NGO Network (PINGON) have been deployed starting this morning. Since there are no reports yet on the damages and needs of the affected communities, the response plans are yet to be developed pending the results of the assessments done by various humanitarian agencies under the The Philippines International NGO Network (PINGON) and the Humanitarian Country Team. However, the National Disaster Risk Reduction Management Council (NDRRMC) had prepositioned resources as part of the government's preparedness actions to focus on anticipated priority needs along food, water, medicines and temporary shelters. The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) has a total stockpile and standby

funds amounting to PhP1.28 billion (US\$26.5 million) and a total of 500,000 family food packs pre-positioned in its national and regional warehouses.

#### **4. ACT Alliance response**

The ACT Philippines Forum members have had meetings a day before and after the landfall of the typhoon to discuss areas of collaboration and coordination and to determine the Forum members' participation on the assessments to be done. Thus, the response plan of the ACT Philippines Forum is yet to be determined.

#### **5. Planned activities**

- The ACT Forum will convene on October 24 to analyse the assessment results, determine priority areas to cover and identify which sectors to focus on.
- Continue to coordinate with both the humanitarian agencies and the local networks/partners of National Council of Churches in the Philippines (NCCP) and Christian Aid (CA) for a more coordinated assessment and response plan
- Deployment of staff to join the assessment teams formed by PINGON

#### **6. Constraints**

The limited or lack of information on the damages and needs will delay the development of the ACT Appeal. Hopefully, the local authorities' assessment on the damages along with the separate assessments being done by other humanitarian agencies through the PINGON will be available soon.

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