

**ALERT****EARTHQUAKE****actalliance****Philippines**

Bangkok, 1 November 2019

**SITUATION**

On the morning of Thursday the 31 October 2019, the province of Cotabato in the Philippines, was struck by a 6.5 magnitude earthquake (EQ) of tectonic origin with epicenter located 33 kilometers North East of Tulunan town, which was also the epicenter of magnitudes 6.6 quake last Tuesday and a magnitude 6.3 temblor last October 16. In a span of two weeks, several hundreds of aftershocks from both tremors were recorded according to the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS). According to PHIVOLCS Science Research Specialist, the series of three tremors could not be considered as aftershock because they have nearly the same magnitude. It added that tremors might still be felt until December this year.

As of October 31, over 30,045 people are affected in 72 barangays or villages in Regions XI and XII, of which almost 12,800 are in 19 evacuation centres, while 6,850 are staying with host families according to the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC). A total of fifteen deaths, 610 injured and 2 missing persons were reported due to the October 16 and 29 earthquakes.

Over 2,600 homes and about 513 schools, frequently used as evacuation centers, sustained damages in Region IX, X, XI, XII, and the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM). Secondary hazards were monitored in the said regions such as fire, flooding due to dike damages, and landslides causing isolation of some communities, among others. Affected communities, displaced in evacuation centers, with host families or camping outdoors in makeshift tents are afraid to go indoors for fear of being injured.

**NEEDS**

The earthquake has put the region in a state of crisis. The earthquake affected persons find themselves in a desperate situation, with many unmet vital humanitarian needs such as access to sufficient food; sleeping materials; shelter materials to repair their homes damaged by earthquake; and safe drinking water. Families are still staying in evacuation centers as aftershocks are still happening.

There is a pressing necessity to provide immediate assistance to minimize loss of life and to ensure that the needs of the most vulnerable are covered first.

**STAKEHOLDERS**

The following national and international entities are present and doing their best to respond to the crisis:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	National government	The national government is leading the response efforts and continues to conduct rapid damage and needs assessments as well as verification of the number of casualties and affected people. The Department of Social Welfare and Development is distributing food and relief assistance to affected families and setting up temporary shelters. Several local authorities have reported that their food and relief supplies are almost depleted due to large number of affected people from recurring tremors.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	UN Agencies	The UN OCHA Philippines continues to monitor the situation and provides flash updates to the humanitarian community. The OCHA Mindanao team is on the ground assessing damages and gathering information from the affected communities.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Red Cross Red Crescent Movement	The Philippine Red Cross is assisting the government, providing first aid, establishing welfare desks and deploying emergency vehicles, providing water, hot meals, relief items and psychosocial support.

☒	National NGOs	Several national NGOs have been coordinating with their local partners since the first EQ hit Cotabato and are continuously monitoring the situation. Some have started resource generation to support local responses.
☒	Faith based groups	<p>The current members of the ACT Philippines Forum - Christian Aid and the National Council of Churches in the Philippines (NCCP), have been sharing assessment information from their local partners. However, due to the upcoming closure of its country office in the Philippines, CA is unable to support any new active emergency response.</p> <p>The Philippine FBO Forum members - the local faith-based formation initiated by the ACT Forum, has now been coordinating its response at the national level.</p> <p>The National Council of Churches in the Philippines is coordinating with its member churches and local partners through the Cotabato Regional Ecumenical Council (COREC), which also provided the rapid damage and needs assessment data from affected communities. The NCCP national emergency response team will be processing the RDANAs and is planning to submit a request for Rapid Response Fund to the ACT Alliance in the next few days.</p> <p>The Catholic Bishops' Conference in the Philippines-NASSA/Caritas Philippines' assessment team is joined by Catholic Relief Services in conducting assessment in Brgy. New Culasi, Tulunan, North Cotabato. Caritas Philippines is planning to augment the responses of its diocesan social action centers.</p> <p>The Philippine Council of Evangelical Churches-Philippine Relief and Development Services is deploying its roster on the next few days to conduct continuing assessments with its local churches.</p> <p>The three Councils will continue to coordinate its 3Ws, together with other humanitarian organizations, to ensure that there will be no duplication and promote complementation in planned emergency responses.</p>
☒	Affected communities	Some of the affected households, even the barangay officials, are in state of trauma after the consecutive strong tremors and are busy in securing their immediate families and constituents.

The emergency response is currently being coordinated by the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) and the regional DRRMCs in Regions X, XI, XII, and BARMM. To ensure that the humanitarian response is well coordinated and complementary, the ACT forum will take part in meetings with all relevant sector stakeholders (national and local coordination meetings with the government agencies, UN and civil society organizations) and establish an open line of communication with crisis affected persons and communities to ensure a humanitarian response based on participation and feedback.

**ACT Alliance**

ACT Alliance members have been working in the Philippines since 1963. They have implemented humanitarian responses for conflict, typhoon, flood, volcanic eruption, and earthquakes in the past. Christian Aid and NCCP are assessing the impact of the disaster to understand the needs and vulnerabilities in collaboration with their regional hubs and local partners. They have identified that the people affected by the earthquake will need food, household items, safe drinking water, and health services especially those that are still in the evacuation centers. Psycho-social first aid is also needed for the people that have been traumatised by the earthquake, especially for children.

ACT Philippines Forum, through NCCP, will access ACT Alliance's Rapid Response Fund for 2,000 households to provide food, household items especially sleeping materials and emergency shelter kits.. They also plan to provide drinking water and psycho-social first aid.

**Any funding indication or pledge should be communicated to the Director of Operations,  
Line Hempel ([Line.Hempel@actalliance.org](mailto:Line.Hempel@actalliance.org))**

For further information please contact:

Forum Convener, Edward Santos ([dondie99@yahoo.com](mailto:dondie99@yahoo.com))

Forum Coordinator, Sylwyn Sheen Alba ([accsec@yahoo.com.ph](mailto:accsec@yahoo.com.ph))

ACT Regional Humanitarian Programme Officer, Cyra Bullecer ([cyra.bullecer@actalliance.org](mailto:cyra.bullecer@actalliance.org))

ACT Web Site address: <http://www.actalliance.org>