

**SITUATION**

In the afternoon of Tuesday the 24 December 2019, the province of Salcedo, Eastern Samar in the Philippines, typhoon Phanfone (locally known as Ursula) made its landfall with sustained wind speeds of 120 kph and gusts of up to 150 kph. The storm brought heavy rain and violent winds as it traversed the Visayas region of Central Philippines, exiting the landmass through Mindoro and Palawan provinces on December 28, making seven landfalls overall.

On Christmas day, Typhoon Phanfone traversed the same path as typhoon Haiyan in 2013 which caused severe flooding. The typhoon knocked out power and communication lines, uprooted trees, denuded farmlands and caused damage to infrastructure, health facilities, schools and homes made of light materials. A magnitude 4.8 earthquake was also felt by the typhoon-affected areas surrounding of San Enrique, Iloilo. Thousands were stranded in ports and terminals and several flights were cancelled as people prepare to travel and be reunited with their families for the Christmas Eve.

National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) reported in 2 January 50 casualties and 362 injured with five missing. The agency also reported that 600,142 families or 2,431,821 persons were affected in 2,702 barangays (villages) in MIMAROPA, Bicol, Western Visayas, Central Visayas, Eastern Visayas, and CARAGA regions. About 19,553 families or 77,989 individuals are still staying in government designated evacuation centers.

Typhoon Phanfone also damaged 428,781 houses. Twelve municipalities in nine provinces have declared a State of Calamity. NDRRMC estimates the damage to infrastructure and agriculture to reach PHP 1,079,311,046.00 (USD 21,246,280.00). The typhoon also affected some of areas that were previously hit by Typhoon Kammuri (Tisoy), which also affected over 470,000 families or 1,900,000 persons in 4,176 barangays in seven (7) regions. Affected families will be welcoming the new year in either evacuation centers or makeshift shelters.

NEEDS

The typhoon has put the region in a state of crisis as declared by the local government. The typhoon-affected people have difficulty accessing food and find themselves in a desperate situation to have a safe and secure shelter. Livelihood activities have also been affected.

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. Regional DRRM Councils continue to provide relief assistance and monitor the situation. As of Dec 30, the government has released a total of PHP 25.4 million worth of assistance to 33,087 affected families.
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<input type="checkbox"/>	UN Agencies	UN OCHA Philippines continues to monitor the situation and share flash updates to the humanitarian community.
<input type="checkbox"/>	INGOs	Several INGOs are responding to the disasters such as Oxfam
<input type="checkbox"/>	Red Cross Red Crescent Movement	The Philippine Red Cross is assisting the government and have deployed staff and volunteers to the most affected areas to establish welfare desks, provide psychosocial and first aid support, and clear road debris.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Military presence	The Armed Forces of the Philippines conducted joint-forced evacuation in low-lying/coastal areas, clearing operations, RDANA and aerial surveys.
<input type="checkbox"/>	National NGOs	National humanitarian organizations are doing assessments on the ground and continuously coordinate with the local authorities. Assessment data are being shared among the organizations to not duplicate the process and are planning to augment the efforts of the Philippine Government.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Faith based groups	NCCP and other faith-based groups are coordinating the assessment and monitoring efforts with its international and local partners.

The emergency response is currently being coordinated by the national government. To ensure that the humanitarian response is well coordinated and complementary, the ACT forum will take part in meetings with all relevant sector stakeholders 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 has been working in the Philippines since 1966. ACT Philippines Forum works in the areas affected by the typhoon and currently are assessing the impact of the disaster. NCCP is planning to respond to the people affected by the typhoon.

Based on their rapid assessment in collaboration with relevant stakeholders, the ACT forum has identified a gap in food, sleeping materials, emergency shelter, potable water, basic relief items and livelihood recovery and has resolved that if funded, it will have the capacity to properly bridge the identified gap.

The ACT forum through the National Council of Churches in the Philippines, plans to submit an appeal to support about 5,000 families by giving food packs, shelter repair kits, and agriculture assistance to ensure that the typhoon affected persons' basic needs are met with regards to food security, shelter and livelihood recovery. Christian Aid has already released its Rapid Response Fund to support partners.

**Any funding indication or pledge should be communicated to the Head of Finance and Administration,
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For further information please contact:

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