

Alert note

Philippines, 6.9 magnitude earthquake in Cebu
30 September 2025

Completed by: National Council of Churches in the Philippines

Date completed: 05 Oct 2025

Forum: Philippines

Type of emergency: Earthquake

Date of emergency (if rapid onset): 30 Sept 25

1. The nature of the emergency
<p>On 30 September 2025 at 9:59 PM, a powerful earthquake struck off the province of Cebu, Central Visayas region of the Philippines. Homes and commercial establishments collapsed while buildings shook violently causing injuries and deaths to the people. Historic structures, residential homes, and essential services, key infrastructures, roads and bridges sustained severe damage. Ongoing aftershocks have further complicated rescue and relief efforts, heightening fear and vulnerability among affected communities.</p> <p>The earthquake had a tectonic origin. Its epicentre was located 19 kilometres offshore of Bogu City, in the Province of Cebu, and had a depth of 5 kilometres. Authorities reported that the highest intensity, 7, was recorded in Cebu City and parts of neighbouring island in Leyte (Region VIII). It damages 89 cities and municipalities in the Visayas region. The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS) has since recorded 3,685 aftershocks ranging from magnitude 1.4 to 5.1. While these are expected to continue in the coming days to weeks, the agency said the frequency and magnitude will gradually decrease.</p> <p>National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (Philippines) https://monitoring-dashboard.ndrrmc.gov.ph/page/situation/effects-of-magnitude-69-earthquake-in-bogu-city-cebu-2025</p> <p>Philippine Daily Inquirer News https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/2119332/cebu-quake-key-facts-and-updates</p> <p>UN Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs https://reliefweb.int/report/philippines/philippines-69m-cebu-earthquake-flash-update-no2-03-october-2025-800-pm-local-time</p>
2. The impact and scale of the emergency (please include your source of information with links if possible)
<p>Based on the NCCP's early consultation with its local partners in the region, an immediate emergency response was identified as necessary but would remain within the scope of a medium-scale disaster, given the scale of the destruction and the increasing numbers of affected people needing aid.</p> <p>Northern Cebu was particularly hardly-hit, with mostly rural areas and some urban centres. As of October 04, 2025, the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) reported a total of 128, 294 families, or 457, 554 individuals, were affected in 184 villages in 15 Cities/Municipalities of region VII. From which, 70 were dead, and 559 injured. In terms of displacement, there are currently more than 77,000 people displaced, the vast majority of which are residing outside evacuation centres (ECs) due to fear of returning to their homes and the ongoing aftershocks.</p>

Due to limited evacuation facilities, families were seen camping on the road sides, in makeshift tents or under the open sky and used plastic bags to cover protect themselves from the rain.

18,154 houses were damaged, from which 3,507 were totally damaged and 14,647 were partially damaged. Transport and lifeline services were also disrupted. 533 damage on infrastructure including government facilities, schools, bridges and roads. Power outages were recorded in 89 municipalities, while communication lines in at least 12 areas were cut. Several landslides, structural collapses, and fire incidents were also reported, adding to the impact on communities.

This is a compounding crisis of climate emergencies and earthquake hitting the communities that are already in distress. The magnitude 6.9 earthquake came in the middle of a fierce typhoon-season, where the Tropical Cyclone Bualoi has just swept through the Central Philippines.

National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (Philippines)

<https://monitoring-dashboard.ndrrmc.gov.ph/page/situation/effects-of-magnitude-69-earthquake-in-bogo-city-cebu-2025>

UN Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

<https://reliefweb.int/report/philippines/philippines-69m-cebu-earthquake-flash-update-no2-03-october-2025-800-pm-local-time>

3. Local and national capacity

A total of 53 cities and municipalities were put under the “State of Calamity”, providing local government access to quick response funds and early recovery interventions. As of October 4, an estimated amount of US\$ 953,051 (or Php 55.3 million) worth of humanitarian assistance to affected families, mostly in the form of food packs that would last a family two to three days.

The Health Cluster, led by the Department of Health, is currently mapping local support and services. Initial Rapid Health Assessment was done and seven Emergency Medical Teams (EMTs) that include mental health and psychosocial support services (MHPSS) were deployed. The agency has also prepositioned medicines and health commodities and will be reactivating the Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) Sub-Cluster. Emergency telecommunications have been activated, and debris clearing operations are ongoing to restore road access. To protect residents from economic shocks, the government has also implemented a 60-day price freeze on basic commodities across Cebu.

As a council of churches that is made up of 10 mainline Protestant and non-Roman Catholic churches, the NCCP has a direct connection to its member churches and local ecumenical formation present in the region. As of this writing, the NCCP Secretariat has continuing coordination with them to gather assessments and on-the-ground information to determine priority targets and their immediate needs.

Sources:

<https://monitoring-dashboard.ndrrmc.gov.ph/page/situation/effects-of-magnitude-69-earthquake-in-bogo-city-cebu-2025>

4. Key needs and gaps

While initial food aid has been provided by private individuals, organizations, and government agencies, it remains insufficient and inequitably distributed, with some families receiving excess while others are left out due to lack of coordination. Emergency food packs are prioritized to be distributed in government-recognized evacuation centers, which are not enough to accommodate displaced populations.

Shelter remains a critical concern, as displaced families are living in open spaces with inadequate protection from the elements, increasing health risks, especially for children and the elderly. Emergency and repair shelter kits are needed to address both totally and partially damaged homes.

Water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) services are severely lacking, with damaged toilets and limited access to potable water leading to poor hygiene conditions.

Protection concerns are rising, with vulnerable groups such as children and older people resorting to begging for basic necessities.

There is a pressing need for hygiene kits, mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), and medical supplies, particularly for at-risk populations. Additionally, the disruption of livelihoods has left skilled workers unemployed, further exacerbating the community's vulnerability and dependence on aid.

Please indicate whether you are considering:

	Indicate your intention with an X below
Rapid Response Fund (<i>intended for small and medium scale emergencies</i>)	X
Appeal (<i>intended for large scale emergencies</i>)	

If you indicate an intention to launch an appeal, the secretariat will activate an Emergency Steering Committee meeting within two working days on receipt of this alert.

5. Forum Capacity and members intention to respond

ACT Member	Geographical focus	Sectors of expertise and experience
National Council of Churches in the Philippines	Central Visayas (Region VII)	With Regional Ecumenical Councils Equipped with Emergency Response procedures. Rapid Assessment/Logistics/Community Mobilization/Relief distribution (volunteers)

6. Potential responses

Coming from initial assessments, the NCCP plans to respond to the immediate needs of the communities through emergency food relief and multi-purpose cash assistance.

The NCCP will directly implement the humanitarian response. At the rapid needs assessment stage, the NCCP mobilized its local ecumenical formations and local stakeholders. Humanitarian Response Programs of NCCP member churches have also deployed rapid needs assessment teams and have launched their respective fundraising efforts, since the onset of the emergency.

Coordination with local government units, local stakeholders, responding faith-based organizations and other humanitarian actors will be done to achieve program complementation. This will be done through existing ecumenical platforms and networks.

A request for Rapid Response Fund is being drafted as of this writing. The ACT Alliance may support the member's response through provision of sufficient funds, communications and continuous coordination.