

# **Floods and Landslides in Mindanao**

June-July 2011

## **DISASTER IN MINDANAO - OVERVIEW**

Continuous heavy rains triggered by Low Pressure caused the overflowing of Balatukan River in Davao del Sur, Pulangi River in North Cotabato, Pagalungan, Simuay, Rio Grande de Mindanao and Tunggol Rivers in Maguindanao, Maradugao, Malatipay and Saguirayan Rivers in Bukidnon, Paquibato River in Davao City, and Lasang River in Davao del Norte. These affected several towns in at least four regions.

From May 31 to June 19, 2011 NDRRMC monitored at least 19 flooding incidents from 10 provinces in Regions X, XI, XII, and ARMM. These affected 703,199 affected persons or 135,921 families from 575 barangays in 5 cities and 59 municipalities.

On 28<sup>th</sup> of June, another flashflood incident occurred in Davao City due to overflowing of Pangi River caused by heavy rains affecting barangays of Ma-a, Matina Pangi, Matina Aplaya, Matina Crossing, and Talomo Proper. The flood subsided the following day.

A separate incident of flashflood due to heavy rain also occurred in Davao del Norte on 1<sup>st</sup> of July affecting municipalities of Talaingo, Braulio E. Dujali, Sto. Tomas, New Corella and Carmen, and Panabo City.

According to NDRRMC, the floodwater reached the height of 10 feet and affected 24,471 families or 113,115 individuals from 36 barangays in two cities and five municipalities in Davao del Sur and Davao del Norte (as of July 8). There were also reported 30 deaths and 1 missing in this incident all from Davao City.

Also on July 1, a landslide occurred in Purok Mabuhay, Brgy. Dacudao, San Isidro, Davao del Norte but there was no casualty reported.

On July 3, separate incidents of flashfloods and landslides occurred in the provinces of Bukidnon (landslide), Misamis Occidental (flashflood), and South Cotabato (flashflood).

Six landslides were reported in Bukidnon which claimed five lives in Valencia City. DPWH extracted an estimated 6,000 cubic meters of mud which covered about 70 meters-long and 6 feet-high. This incident damaged three houses and left an undetermined number of people still missing. Ten individuals were reported as injured or as survivors.

On the other hand, Misamis Occidental and South Cotabato experienced 4 flashflood incidents that affected 14 barangays on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> of July. One

person in Brgy. Mialim, Jimenez, Misamis Occidental was allegedly washed away by flood and found dead around 3:00 PM at the spillway of Pallilan River in Brgy. Mialim. He was identified as P/Supt. Timoteo Colonel (Ret) of PNP.

In South Cotabato, two persons carried away by strong current of water were rescued. They were identified as Rex Balandan, 23, and Lito Paybar, 28 of General Santos City, South Cotabato.

**Sources: NDRRMC Situation Reports on: Regions X, XI, XII and ARMM (no. 16); Landslides and Flashflood in Mindanao Areas (no. 4); Flashflood and Landslide Incidents in Davao City and Davao del Norte (no. 10)**

## **EFFECTS OF FLOODS IN NORTH COTABATO, COTABATO CITY AND MAGUINDANAO**

### North Cotabato

- On the height of the flooding, 76% of the total population was affected.
- As of July 4, at least 1,365 families are still inside 7 evacuation centers (*report from DSWD*)

### Cotabato City

- On height of the flooding, 89% of the barangays were affected: 38,307 families; as of July 4, 7,245 families are inside 39 evacuation centers. (*report from DSWD*)
- There were reported 7 deaths in the City due to sickness (Source: OCHA Sit. Rep.)

### Maguindanao (*Results of Damage Assessment and Need Analysis*)

- 14 out of 27 municipalities are affected
- In the 14 municipalities, one-third of the existing water supply are destroyed by floods; 44% of the affected population are without access to safe drinking water
- 67% of existing communal latrines were damaged and submerged by floodwater.
- Common illnesses are fever, diarrhea, skin disease, hypertension, coughs and colds.
- No outbreak of communicable diseases
- The floods affected 172 schools in Maguindanao, 3 schools were used as Evacuation Centers. Classes have been suspended since June 6 in flood-affected schools.
- A total of 14,962 ha of rice and corn have been affected by floods. The Provincial Agriculture Office has placed the damage to crops to an estimated P84.9 million

## **NEEDS AND RESPONSES ASSESSMENT: NORTH COTABATO, COTABATO CITY, AND MAGUINDANAO**

***(Per cluster report; Extracted from Situation Report No. 8 of United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs)***

### **HEALTH**

**Needs:** Respiratory infections, fever, skin lesions, diarrhoea and skin rashes are the most prevalent morbidity cases in Cotabato City. The Displacement Tracking Report (IOM, 30 June) reported 31 percent of sites have not been provided with on-site health services. A total of 7 deaths were reported by the City Health Office (CHO), five were aged under-five and two above five years old. Deaths due to severe dehydration increased from three to four cases as reported by the Cotabato CHO. Two of these deaths were reported to have sought medical attention from referral hospitals, however, absence of adequate resources to access drugs and medicines prompted the families to be discharged against medical advice.

**Response:** The Health Organization for Mindanao (HOM) will conduct mental health assessments in 9 out of 21 ECs in Cotabato City. Similar assessments are being planned for ECs in Maguindanao. Local health staff in the ECs with health stations continue advocacy activities and provide IEC materials. A similar assessment was also conducted by medical teams from Department of Health Center for Health Development (DOH CHD) Region XII. WHO discussed referral schemes with Cotabato CHO and DOH CHD-12 to ensure patients from floodaffected areas who are admitted in DOH-retained hospitals are spared from out-of-pocket expenses and are able to procure needed drugs that are not available in the hospitals. This referral scheme will begin implementation within the week.

The Philippine Red Cross conducted health education sessions in 6 evacuation camps to 479 IDP families, the topics covered were Dengue, Leptospirosis, Breast feeding and demonstrations of safe hand washing techniques.

**Gaps & Constraints:** Psychosocial support services to affected populations remain a gap area. Only 9 of 21 ECs in Cotabato city have health stations. There are no health stations in the ECs in Maguindanao and North Cotabato provinces and IEC materials are needed to support community health education sessions. The referral procedure for managing cases needs to be reviewed and resources augmented where needed. Affected populations in Maguindanao and North Cotabato provinces have yet to be reached with the same level of support being provided to those in Cotabato City. The exact number of IDPs remaining in camps and the number of existing evacuation sites need further verification; as there is an observed rapid return of

families, there is a need to assess and monitor their health status and the quality of health service provision in their places of origin need.

## **NUTRITION**

**Needs:** In Cotabato City, a nutritional assessment was completed by the City Health Office in 20 ECs from 14-30 June. At least 200 children were classified as severely malnourished by weight-for-age. No height and Mid Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) measurements have been conducted. The nutrition coordinator has expressed interest in coordinating therapeutic feeding for severely malnourished children in Cotabato City with the City Health Officer.

MUAC screenings conducted by nutrition cluster partners in Cotabato City have identified at least seven children with Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM). ACF has conducted MUAC screening in four ECs and has reported no children with SAM.

**Response:** The Region XII Nutrition cluster convened for the first time since 5 July, with representatives from the City Health Office of Cotabato City. Cluster partners were re-oriented on the objectives of the nutrition cluster and the policies on infant feeding in emergencies and to the Milk Code. UNICEF continues provision of Infant Feeding in Emergency (IFE) supplies to Save the Children and their partners. ACF will continue MUAC screening in three target ECs. Save the Children will proceed with the IFE activities in ECs in Cotabato City and Maguindanao.

The Nutrition Cluster at the regional and city-level in Cotabato City will regularly convene and will be supported by UNICEF as the cluster co-lead. UNICEF and Save the Children continued therapeutic feeding for children in Maguindanao and North Cotabato as part of the regular Community-based Management of Acute Malnutrition (CMAM) program and continue to treat referred children from ECs, with around seven children referred from ECs in Cotabato City. The Cluster 3W will continue to be updated and shared with partners.

**Gaps & Constraints:** There is a need to strengthen the coordination of the cluster in Cotabato City. Larger scale screening for acute malnutrition is necessary but may be very resource and logistics intensive. Larger scale MUAC screenings are required to more accurately establish the number of children with acute malnutrition. However, based on projections from affected population, there are around 140,000 children under-five, with 1,400 children expected to have SAM and require therapeutic feeding.

## **FOOD AND AGRICULTURE**

**Needs:** Data obtained from the Provincial Agricultural Office (PAO) indicate that as of 5 July, a total of 11,197 farmers in 26 municipalities were affected by the recent flood in Maguindanao province. The crops affected are rice, corn, mango, banana, vegetables and tobacco. The stages of crops varied at the onset of the floods, with some at vegetative, reproductive or at maturity stages. Approximately 14,743 ha in 26 municipalities have been affected, of which 9,589 ha have no chance of recovery. Approximately 30,269 mt of crops have been destroyed, valued at Php 84,917,000. From regular WFP monitoring data, as high as 62 percent of households in Maguindanao provinces lack adequate food consumption, even prior to the floods.

Staple crops, rice and corn, are planted in June and harvested in September-October. The next round of harvests is expected in March and January respectively. Therefore, affected households do not have other alternatives to obtain their food in the coming months, thus food assistance is required until the next harvest.

**Response:** WFP continues the regular PRRO activities that include Food for Work, Food for Training, emergency school feeding, and supplementary feeding program in five provinces of Central Mindanao with a case load of about 1.2 million beneficiaries.

WFP has responded to the flood emergency complementing government efforts since 25 June. To date, approximately 809 mt of mixed commodities have been distributed to an estimated 266,040 persons in Maguindanao province and Cotabato city. In a joint HCT-Government meeting with donors held in Manila on 5 July 2011, the national government made a request for an assessment on the impact of the floods in Mindanao, which will include food security. The national government intends to lead the assessment with the support of WFP capacity. The time-line has not been established by the government.

**Gaps:** WFP's response has increased and expanded its support to include some 1,900 tons of emergency food aid as relief to 484,000 flood-affected beneficiaries in Maguindanao and Cotabato City over a three-month period.

Gaps still exist as resources as an estimated US\$2 million of supplies have been redirected from the regular PRRO programs and need to be replenished. A planned one month return package for the flood affected will further require additional resources.

WFP has requested CERF fund which focuses on life saving food assistance for US\$1.8 million to address the immediate food needs and US\$200,000 to address logistical capacity required to facilitate the response. However, subject to further assessments and needs quantification, early recovery activities are envisioned encompassing flood affected populations that are beyond the scope of the CERF proposal. Further assessment is needed to

quantify the needs for medium term interventions to assist the affected farmers.

## **WATER SANITATION HYGIENE**

**Needs:** Displacement Tracking Report of IOM in June cited that in Cotabato City:

- 58 per cent of evacuation centres did not meet the SPHERE standard ratio of taps/water points per person.
- 94 per cent of ECs did not meet the SPHERE standard ratio of latrines per person.
- 6 per cent of ECs had appropriately segregated bathrooms for males and females.
- The City Health Office is concerned at the sanitation condition of the returned families as some homes are still in flooded but habitable – the affected returned families are also concerned on how they can start their recovery as most of the houses are still in mud.

**Response:** ACF revalidated the number of beneficiaries in five targeted ECs in Cotabato City. ACF also supported two more camps in the municipality of Sultan Kudarat, Maguindanao. In partnership with UNICEF, ACF continues to supply 5000 L water per bladder in three school-based ECs and existing water tanks in one evacuation site. Minor repairs of existing sanitation facilities in covered sites are already completed and the hygiene promotion activities are simultaneously implemented along with solid waste management.

In North Cotabato and Sultan Kudarat provinces the Humanitarian Response Consortium/OXFAM Great Britain (HRC/OGB) have distributed 7,151 hyposol and 3,836 Jerry cans in conjunction with hygiene promotion activities.

The Community Family Services International (CFSI) distributed 1000 family hygiene kits to affected families in Maguindanao and Cotabato City. CFSI also plan to distribute 700 family hygiene kits. Revalidation is ongoing due to the reduced number of affected families.

Catholic Relief Services (CRS) distributed 700 hygiene kits and water containers to home-based target beneficiaries.

The Mindanao Emergency Response Network (MERN), through Mindanao Tulong Bakwet (MTB), distributed 2390 hygiene kits for three barangays and plan to distribute 600 packs of hygiene kits for other centers/camps still to be identified and coordinated with partners.

DOH Region XII, together with the City Sanitary Inspectors, conducted WASH monitoring, where the condition of facilities, especially sanitation, in all camps were assessed and needs were identified.

The Office on General Services (OGS) of Cotabato City provided de-sludging services on eight portalets located in large camps (Central Pilot Elementary School and Notre Dame Village Elementary School). The OGS continually collect wastes from ECs and have temporarily suspended the “No segregation no collection policy”.

Currently, the WASH Cluster is responding to the needs of 2,157 families in Cotabato City while consolidating those for other areas.

**Gaps & Constraints:** Concentration of assistance remains in ECs but needs assessed for returnees or populations at other sites is also required. Sanitation remains a major gap, with open defecation a common practice by those in camps.

There is need for data analysis on the overall condition of the evacuees in both ECs and home-based populations in Cotabato City. There is a need to determine the WASH status affected populations in North Cotabato and Sultan Kudarat provinces.

## **EDUCATION**

**Needs:** Most flood-affected schools in Cotabato City are currently cleaning the sites in preparation for the resumption of regular classes. However there are schools that are still submerged namely; Diokolano Elem. School, Diokolano High School, Lisbong Elem. School and Mukamad Ali Elem. School affecting 465 children and 18 teachers. In Pagalamatan Elementary School, 7 teachers managed to conduct classes among 210 children in flooded conditions.

In North Cotabato, most flood-affected schools in the municipalities of Pikit, Pigcawayan and Midsayap resumed classes on July 4, 2011. The schools that were once flooded are still water-logged and classrooms are muddy. However, pupils remain unable to attend school due to flooded areas around their homes. For instance, in Kabasalan Elementary School, more than 720 pupils are unable to attend school even if teachers are available. Pupils in this school were prevented by their parents in traversing the still strong current along the Rio Grande River. Three schools in Pigcawayan South District namely; A-maniay Primary School, Upper Pangankalan and Lower Pangankalan Elementary School are still submerged. Pupils in these schools are holding classes in nearby Madrasah in Libungan Toreta, Pigcawayan.

In Maguindanao, 14,782 children in 53 schools in the 6 districts of Maguindanao Division 2 are still affected by floods and are therefore unable to access regular schooling. Of the number of schools cited, 16 remain submerged. Tracking of children continue to be a challenge of the entire division. While there are some schools that managed to conduct classes in spite of the flood, most schools have not yet resumed regular classes.

The needs identified in the DANA are still relevant particularly in the flood-affected schools in Maguindanao. These needs are:

- Tents for Temporary Learning Spaces; Instructional materials for teachers; School packs for kids; ECCD packages; "Food for School"; Raincoats, umbrella, water containers; Water and sanitation facilities for the TLS; Need to further assess DCCs and other affected learning institutions i.e. Madrasah; Need to re-assess other affected schools by strictly using the desired template; Need to assess out-of-school children and youth.
- Schools that are no longer flooded require textbooks, reference books, instructional materials, desks, blackboards, school packs for kids, and teachers' packs. They also need materials for cleaning their classrooms.

**Response:** A total of 2,238 children attended the emergency classes conducted by 9 flood-affected schools in Cotabato City through their "Project Bakwet". The Education Cluster supported this initiative by providing technical support to the education department to run education in emergency classes and distribute 800 school packs, 6 high school recreational kits and book sets, and 88 teachers' packs. The DepEd ARMM continues distributing food packs to 14,000 flood-affected pupils/students.

The Mindanao Education Cluster gave technical assistance to flood-affected districts in North Cotabato and Maguindanao Division 2 in developing a response plan. The plan focuses on the 3 phases identified in the DANA, namely: Phase 1: Disaster Phase; Phase 2: Early recovery phase; and Phase 3: Rehabilitation/Preparedness. In support to these plans, approximately 5,000 school packs, 50 Elem. School Book kits, 1 ECCD kit and 4 collapsible tents from UNICEF will be distributed to priority schools in Maguindanao and North Cotabato.

The Child Protection Working Group and the Education Cluster will be establishing 12m x 5 meters child-friendly spaces (CFS) / mobile learning spaces (MLS) in selected schools in Cotabato City that remain submerged.

**Gaps:** Children require ongoing tracking and access to education in emergency classes particularly Maguindanao.

- Ensure that tracking and monitoring is implemented to acquire data on children in emergency classes, children in and out of school.
- The current emergency classes being conducted are only able to track and accommodate in-school children. Attention should also be given to affected out-of-school children.
- There are schools that are not directly affected by flood but have suspended classes and compromised education of other children to accommodate IDPs who are using their classrooms.

- Attention should also be given to flood-affected Madaris. In Cotabato City alone, there are 7 affected Madaris affecting a total of 2,062 children.
- Hygiene and sanitation requires greater emphasis particularly in schools that were flood-affected and are now in early recovery. Also, WASH facilities and supply of drinking water in areas with emergency classes for children needs consideration as this will affect their level of concentration and learning
- Early recovery efforts in schools that are no longer flooded i.e. repair and refurbishment of damage facilities, should already be undertaken. This is a major gap. The cluster lacks capacity in doing this.

## **CAMP COORDINATION / MANAGEMENT**

**Needs:** Assessments report all flood displaced families and affected populations have food needs. Particularly for Cotabato City, families who remain in ECs expressed needs for shelter, even if they are staying in schools, some families not accommodated in the classrooms sleep in open spaces within the school premises without blankets, sleeping mats and mosquito nets.

Families have lost their belongings due to the flood; they are in need of households items (such as cooking pans and pots, ladle, turner, plates, water containers, etc.).

There are issues and concerns include:

- Families, not ready to return home, may be forced to leave the EC/schools because classes have resumed already. IDPs staying in schools are seen to be causing disruption of normal school activities. IDPs may have left the schools but may not necessarily go back to places of origin. IDPs are likely to transfer to another EC, however, these cases have not been verified. This poses as a protection issue.
- The pabaon packages might be a contributing factor for the “returns” but are limited to food supplies. Other needs such as shelter repairs or sanitization kits in places of origin were not provided.
- The IOM tracking list indicates that the places of origin are in the following barnagays in the city: Pobalcion 3, Poblacion 9, Poblacion 2, Malagapas, Canizares, Purok lapu lapu and Kalimudan (in Rosary Heights 3), Poblacion 8, Poblacion 7, Rosary Heights 9, Tamontaka 1, Tamontaka 2, Tamontaka 3, Rosary Heights 8, Mother Barangay(Tamontaka), Biniruan (Poblacion), among others.
- Needs assessments should be conducted in the places of origin to determine if proper humanitarian assistance have followed the IDPs.

**Response:** As per Provincial Social Welfare Officer (PSWDO) - Maguindanao, 304,760 individuals have been provided with food assistance.

IOM has conducted a second round of displacement tracking in Cotabato City starting 6 July. To date, 16 sites were visited.

Recent IOM Tracking(Conducted on July 6, 2011 in 16 sites) shows that assistance to Cotabato City IDPs in ECs is provided by various agencies and the private sector. Among these are the: Mindanao Emergency Response Network (MERN), Mindanao Tulong Bakwet (MTB), Community Family Services International (CFSI), Cotabato City Social Welfare Office, DSWD Region XII, Philippine National Red Cross (PNRC), ACF, Oxfam, Sen. Chiz Escudero, Demolay - Cotabato City Chapter, etc.

**Gaps:** PSWDO- Maguindanao reported approximately 31,444 families or 157,220 individuals have not received assistance.

- There is a need to support the City Government of Cotabato in terms of camp management and information management. (e.g. demographics). Approximately 14 percent of the ECs have camp management committees established.
- Most of the assistance provided is food. But there are also other needs such as sleeping kits, household items (pots, plates, cooking stoves, glasses, ladles and the like) and shelter support that IDPs need while in the ECs.
- Cleanliness and sanitation comes as a challenge that needs attention. Of the 16 sites visited, results indicate 69 percent is seen to be moderately dirty. WASH promotion is needed. Moreover, most of the sites visited indicate that there are no latrines and bathing facilities (which is a concern particularly to women and children who take a bath in the open).
- One protection issue raised in one EC (specifically Salam Bridge), IDPs are worried that children will fall as they are staying along the bridge. These IDPs require assistance in terms of being relocated as they cannot return to their places of origin.
- Some IDPs have not returned home as they require the pabaon packages and shelter assistance to use to rebuild their damaged houses.