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Emergency Assistance to Earthquake-Affected Populations in Central Visayas



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PROJECT SUMMARY

At 8:12 AM on October 15, 2013, a 7.2 magnitude earthquake struck the central Philippine island of Bohol. The effects of the quake were felt within Bohol and its neighboring province, Cebu, collapsing buildings, disrupting electric power, and damaging roads and infrastructure. The quake also generated landslides that buried homes, displacing hundreds of households and triggering panicked flight in crowded areas resulting in many injuries.

As of November 22, 2013, the Disaster Response Operations Monitoring and Information Center (DROMIC) reported that 13,682 houses were totally damaged from the earthquake while 58,245 were assessed to be partially damaged. Families temporarily stayed in evacuation centers and tents were built in open spaces due to fear of aftershocks. OCHA reported that a significant number of families were living in temporary evacuation centers (schools, gyms, cultural centers and barangay halls) with 4,630 families in evacuation centers in the municipality of Carmen and 1,150 families in the municipality of Calape. Furthermore, OCHA reported that many of the displaced opted to stay in open spaces within the evacuation centers (i.e. town plaza, open school grounds) for fear of falling debris as a result of aftershocks. Many families also stayed in makeshift shelters (under plastic sheeting or barangay waiting sheds) in their communities.

To address gaps and immediate needs in earthquake-affected areas, USAID supported Plan in the distribution of water kits (including hyposol for water treatment) and key NFIs consisting of hygiene kits (including jerry cans) in three municipalities in Bohol. Plan's provision of immediate relief to affected households aimed at maintaining hygiene practices and reducing health risks and disease outbreaks while in evacuation centers and temporary settlements.

SUMMARY OF RESULTS

The two-month project addressed the emergency WASH and Hygiene needs among the vulnerable earthquake-affected residents of Bohol. The project slightly exceeded targets by distributing 901 hygiene and water kits with water purification solution (Hyposol) to a total of 5,406 beneficiaries from 901 households (targets were 5,400 beneficiaries through distribution of 900 hygiene and water kits). The beneficiaries were also oriented on hygiene promotion topics including the importance of proper water treatment, water storage and proper hygiene practices.

The project successfully reached 5,406¹ internally displaced persons (IDPs) living in evacuation centers and makeshift shelters outside the evacuation areas. The project originally intended to target beneficiaries in the municipalities of Carmen, Baclayon and Loboc but at the time of Plan's distribution, many local organizations were already providing non-food items and food assistance in these areas. To avoid duplication and to meet immediate needs of other vulnerable households, Plan shifted its target areas to outskirt barangays within the municipalities of Loon, Maribojoc and Antequerra that were not receiving assistance². The barangays identified along with the selection of beneficiaries, were coordinated with the local government units, community leaders and other stakeholders.

RESULTS BY OBJECTIVE

Sector: Logistics Support, Relief Commodities

Sub-sector: Non-Food Items

¹ Plan reached 546 individuals (276 males and 270 females) from 91 households in evacuation centers and 4,860 individuals (2,433 males and 2,427 females) from 810 households in makeshift settlements outside evacuation areas.

² A summary of affected households in the province of Bohol is annexed.

Objective 1: To provide essential NFIs to affected populations

Beneficiaries by objective	Target	Overall Target Achieved	% of Target Achieved
Number of beneficiaries by objective	5,400	5,406	100%
Number of internally displaced persons reached	5,400 (2,700 males and 2,700 females)	5,406 ³ (2,709 males and 2,697 females)	100%

Performance against indicators	Target	Overall Target Achieved	% of Target Achieved
Total number and per unit cost of NFIs distributed by type	900 (\$35.46 per HH)	901 (\$35.46)	100%
Total number and per item USD value of cash/vouchers distributed for NFIs by type	0	N/A	N/A
Total number of people receiving NFIs by sex and type	5,400 (2,700 females, 2,700 males)	5,406 (2,709 males and 2,697 females)	100%

Progress against Planned Activities

1.1. Distribution of hygiene kits to 900 households (approximately 5,400 beneficiaries)

Plan conducted the distribution of 901 sets of hygiene kits following the selection and validation of beneficiaries immediately after the earthquake. Overall, the project reached 901 earthquake affected families (5,406 individuals – 2,709 males, 2,697 females) in seven villages within three municipalities.

The contents of the hygiene kits include:

- adult toothbrush with bristle head cover (2 pieces) and child



Beneficiaries receiving water and hygiene kits

³ 546 individuals (276 males and 270 females) from 91 households were in evacuation centers and 4,860 individuals (2,433 males and 2,427 females) from 810 households were in makeshift settlements outside evacuation areas

- toothbrush with bristle head cover (4 pieces)
- toothpaste (3 pieces, 100 ml)
- bath soap (12pcs, 135g)
- shampoo (1 bottle, 600 ml)
- sanitary pads (3packs)
- laundry soap (1 piece)
- soap box (plastic, 2 pieces)
- comb (3 pieces)
- fingernail clipper (1 piece)
- toenail cutter (1 piece)
- towel (4 pieces, 20x42 inch)
- jerry can (1 piece, 5 gallon capacity with flip-type faucet)
- water disinfectant/hyposol (2 bottles)

A breakdown of the distribution in the seven barangays is summarized below:

MUNICIPALITY	BARANGAY	Hygiene Kit	Water Kit	# of HH who received NFIs and hygiene promotion		# of children beneficiaries		
				Male	Female	Male	Female	Total
Loon	Nagtuang	110	110	78	32	82	89	171
	Bugho	73	73	51	22	45	43	88
	Tubuan	88	88	68	20	56	52	108
Maribojoc	Candavid	133	133	118	15	101	91	192
Antequera	Mag-aso	95	95	78	17	92	66	158
	Bantolinao	271	271	209	62	257	222	479
	Canlaas	131	131	106	25	81	85	166
TOTAL		901	901	708	193	714	648	1,362

Sector: Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene
Sub-sector: Hygiene Promotion

Objective 2: To provide for the immediate safe drinking water needs of affected populations

Performance against indicators

	Target	Overall Target Achieved	% of Target Achieved
Number of people receiving direct hygiene promotion	5,400	5,406 (2,709 males and 2,697 females)	100%
Number of water kits distributed	900	901	100%
Number of households who store their drinking water safely in clean containers	720 (80%)	111	15.42%

Performance against indicators	Target	Overall Target Achieved	% of Target Achieved
Number of households receiving water quality education, by sex	900 (or approximately 5,400 individuals – 2,700 females, 2,700 males)	901 (2,709 males and 2,697females)	100
Number of household drinking water supplies with FRC (trace)	720 (80%)	111	15.42%

Progress against Planned Activities

2.1. Distribution of Hyposol point-of-use water purification solution to 900 households (approximately 5,400 beneficiaries)

Within the two-month project period, the project completed the distribution of water kits which included jerry cans and point-of-use water purification (hyposol) benefiting a total of 5,406 individuals from 901 households.

As part of the assistance package, Plan conducted hygiene promotion activities during the distribution which included an orientation on proper hygiene and sanitation practices, water collection, and transportation and storage of water. A demonstration on the use of hyposol was also conducted along with discussion on maintaining jerry cans to avoid contamination of drinking water.

Plan conducted water testing in one barangay (Magaso) in the Municipality of Antequera after assessing that the drinking water was at risk to contamination due to the population’s reliance on spring water in the absence of potable water delivery services. Using a portable microbiology lab test, the results indicated that the water had very low e.coli but contained environmental coliforms. To ensure safe drinking water, Plan recommended and demonstrated the use of hyposol.



Plan staff demonstrating the proper use of hyposol

In all of its distribution activities, Plan included children in the hygiene promotion activities as part of the psychosocial play. These activities also allowed them to learn the proper use of hyposol and hygiene practices such as hand washing. Children were vital to the WASH intervention as they played an important part in the households and are often responsible for fetching and storing clean drinking water in their households.

Challenges

Although the project successfully distributed water kits to 901 families in the target areas, the project team was limited to sampling 111 individuals in the follow-up visits. The sampling size was limited as

most beneficiaries invited to participate in the surveys and focus group discussions during Plan's follow-up visits were unable to attend because of conflicting work schedule. At the time of Plan's visit, many households were prioritizing recovery from the loss of livelihood as a result of the earthquake, with many beneficiaries tending farms and involved in construction work.

Respondents via a focus group discussion noted their hesitance to use hyposol because of its taste and smell, associating it with chlorine. However it was also noted that the taste/smell of hyposol was tolerated because it makes the water safe for drinking. Beneficiaries consulted further confirmed not having incidents of diarrhoea and other abdominal/urinary tract discomforts and that they continued to use hyposol for their drinking water at the time of Plan's follow-up visit. Issues related to hygiene and water drinking practices were recorded as basis of Plan's lessons learned and best practices for its WASH interventions in future similar response.

The project also encountered challenges with the Local Government Units vis-à-vis selected beneficiaries as most of the Local Chief Executives were expecting that all affected families will be provided with assistance. This was however resolved through coordination and orientation on project goals and activities with relevant local government officials and stakeholders to ensure proper targeting.

With coordination, the project was able to prioritize the most vulnerable and assistance was directed to the most in need. Plan used the following set of criteria in selecting the beneficiaries:

- Families with houses that are partially or totally damaged;
- Families with pregnant women;
- Families with infants;
- Families with children below 18 years old;
- women headed families and
- Families with members living with disability, chronic illness and elderly.

Plan validated the list of beneficiaries from the Department of Social Worker and Development's (DSWD) list of poor families in the area. It also conducted a participatory data validation which helped the community understand why a blanket distribution was not possible under this project. The barangay council also helped in letting the community members understand the process.

The formation of a Core Group to assist in the validation of beneficiaries can be considered a good practice during emergency response, based on Plan's experience. The Core Group included the village leader, secretary, councillor on health, village nutrition scholar, village health workers, day care worker, youth leader and child representative, senior citizen representative, *purok* leaders, and teachers. This strategy ensured maximum participation of the community and increased ownership of the process. The format and process used for validation helped determine who will be prioritized for the assistance. The people also understood how the beneficiaries were selected, which was crucial given the limited resources.

Another good practice was the orientation activities held for beneficiaries before the distribution. By doing this, the beneficiaries were made clear about how Plan worked, the process for beneficiary selection and where the funding was from. The orientation also helped them understand why there was a need for prioritization of beneficiaries. This step resulted to minimal complaints from those who did not receive assistance.

Plan conducted a post-implementation meeting with selected beneficiaries, local government officials to discuss feedback and lessons learned. Below are the key highlights/recommendations for future interventions:

Action Points:

- Continue coordination with partners in the municipal especially from the rural health unit to sustain proper hygiene practices and to ensure monitoring of the water quality for continued safety of drinking water;
- Integrate regular refresher and orientation among beneficiaries during monitoring.

How the partner/community rate the performance of the project:

Performance Standard (0 as lowest and 5 as highest rating)	Barangay Nagtuang, Loon	Barangay Tubuan, Loon	Barangay Bantolina, Antequera	Barangay Mag-aso, Antequera	Barangay Canlaas, Antequera	Barangay Candavid, Maribojoc	Average
Process of selecting most affected families	3	5	5	5	3	5	4.33
Extent of reaching in most need families	4	5	5	5	4	5	4.66
Timeliness if intervention to reach target families	4	4	4	5	3	5	4.17
Appropriateness of family hygiene kit and health orientations	4	5	5	5	5	5	4.83
The way health sessions are conducted	4	4	4	5	5	5	4.50
How Plan staff works with LGU partners	4	4	5	5	5	5	4.66
How Local Government Unit's agencies work together before, during, after relief operations	4	5	5	4	4	5	4.50
Involvement of actual beneficiaries in the processes	4	5	5	5	5	5	4.83
Readiness of local government unit in responding the disaster	3	5	4	5	2	5	4.00
Overall result of the emergency response (Average)	3.8	4.7	4.7	4.9	3.6	5	4.49

Plan conducted a focus group discussion to discuss the overall performance of the project. Based on the results summarized above, the project was rated high. This showed that even though there were challenges experienced in the course of implementation, the partners which include the village council, health workers, day care workers and teachers, considered the project as highly relevant and successful.

COORDINATION

At different stages of the project, from planning of activities up to evaluation, Plan Philippines staff worked closely with local partners, government officials and beneficiaries which ensured close collaboration and complementarity of activities. Plan regularly attended cluster meetings which allowed

for technical coordination and sharing of information. Plan's work alongside the local government units and communities affected also help ensure that the targeting criteria was well understood which also facilitated community ownership throughout the project.

PROCUREMENT

Hygiene and water kits were procured locally, facilitated by Plan's program unit office in Tacloban City. Plan did not procure any motor vehicles or other restricted goods under this award.

No Federal funds were used to pay VAT/foreign taxes under this project. Because this was for a rapid-onset emergency response, there was insufficient time to secure Philippine Government Department of Finance (Bureau of Internal Revenue) VAT exemption. Rather than delay implementation of relief activities, the project went ahead as scheduled and VAT was paid. The project completely expended Federal award funds on project supplies and implementation and, as a result, paid the VAT using its own funding.

ANNEX

- Disaster Response Operations Monitoring and Information Center (DROMIC) Summary of Affected Households in Bohol Province (page over)

**Disaster Response Operations Monitoring and Information Center (DROMIC) Summary of
Affected Households in Bohol Province**

Magnitude of Displaced Families by Oct 15 Earthquake in the Province of Bohol (As of Dec. 12, 2013_5pm)									
LGUs	No. of Brgys	# of Families (based on 2010 NSO Census)	Projected no. of families in 2013	Displaced Families	Displaced Persons	% of Displaced Families	Totally Damaged Houses	Partially Damaged Houses	Total Damaged Houses
Albuquerque	11	2,067	2,156	251	1,205	12%	23	228	251
Alicia	15	4,643	4,842	740	3,552	15%	24	716	740
Antequera	21	3,017	3,146	3,178	15,254	101%	976	2,202	3,178
Baclayon	17	3,881	4,048	314	1,507	8%	11	303	314
Balilihan	31	3,572	3,725	1,673	8,030	45%	111	1,562	1,673
Batuan	15	2,590	2,701	1,038	4,982	38%	27	1,011	1,038
Bilar	19	3,562	3,715	562	2,668	15%	16	546	562
Buena vista	35	5,632	5,874	3,282	15,754	56%	354	2,928	3,282
Calape	33	6,280	6,549	5,589	26,822	85%	1,225	4,364	5,589
Candijay	21	6,051	6,311	11	53	0%	0	11	11
Carmen	29	9,079	9,468	3,602	17,222	38%	287	3,315	3,602
Catigbian	22	4,726	4,929	4,602	22,090	93%	209	4,393	4,602
Clarin	24	4,228	4,409	4,255	20,333	96%	604	3,651	4,255
Corella	8	1,604	1,673	552	2,650	33%	15	537	552
Cortes	14	3,186	3,323	2,371	11,381	71%	416	1,955	2,371
Dagohoy	15	3,931	4,100	1,036	4,766	25%	20	1,016	1,036
Danao	17	3,740	3,900	1,207	5,795	31%	121	1,086	1,207

LGUs	No. of Brgys	# of Families (based on 2010 NSO Census)	Projected no. of families in 2013	Displaced Families	Displaced Persons	% of Displaced Families	Totally Damaged Houses	Partially Damaged Houses	Total Damaged Houses
Dauis	12	8,218	8,571	117	562	1%	1	116	117
Dimiao	35	3,160	3,296	154	739	5%	4	150	154
Duero	21	3,662	3,819	48	230	1%	2	46	48
Garcia Hernandez	30	4,800	5,006	39	187	1%	4	35	39
Getafe	24	5,789	6,037	1,176	5,645	19%	64	1,112	1,176
Guindulman	19	6,623	6,907	46	220	1%	0	46	46
Inabanga	50	9,019	9,406	6,254	29,800	66%	691	5,563	6,254
Jagna	33	6,785	7,076	180	864	3%	4	176	180
Lila	18	2,497	2,604	138	662	5%	1	137	138
Loay	24	3,388	3,533	1,094	5,251	31%	149	945	1,094
Loboc	28	3,398	3,544	1,291	6,197	36%	120	1,171	1,291
Loon	67	8,917	9,300	8,190	39,312	88%	1,820	6,370	8,190
Maribojoc	22	4,269	4,452	4,118	19,763	92%	1,360	2,758	4,118
Panglao	10	5,959	6,215	8	38	0%	1	7	8
Pilar	21	5,601	5,841	885	4,248	15%	103	782	885
Sagbayan	24	4,186	4,366	3,894	18,691	89%	1,066	2,828	3,894
San Isidro	12	1,901	1,983	1,671	7,998	84%	311	1,360	1,671
San Miguel	18	4,911	5,122	764	3,667	15%	20	744	764
Sevilla	13	2,176	2,269	1,249	5,995	55%	177	1,072	1,249
Sierra Bullones	22	5,145	5,366	1,416	6,797	26%	9	1,407	1,416

Sikatuna	10	1,329	1,386	804	3,859	58%	39	765	804
Tagbilaran City	15	20,165	21,030	1,967	9,443	9%	222	1,742	1,964
Talibon	25	12,786	13,335	1,663	7,982	12%	64	1,599	1,663
Trinidad	20	6,006	6,264	492	2,362	8%	37	455	492
Tubigon	34	9,355	9,756	4,472	21,268	46%	755	3,717	4,472
Valencia	35	5,747	5,994	399	1,915	7%	4	395	399
Total	989	227,581	237,344	76,792	367,760	32%	11,467	65,322	76,789