

PHILIPPINES - Typhoon Agnes

Date: November 3 - 6, 1984

Location: Central Philippines - Capiz, Leyte, Negros, Panay, Palawan islands

No. Dead: 862; 191 injured, 217 missing

No. Homeless: 85,205 families

No. Affected: 1,495,738

Damage: Total damage came to \$96,400,000, with 176,272 houses totally destroyed. 115,296 partially destroyed; 16,299 boats destroyed

damage summary:

public works/government property	\$10,200,000
roads and bridges	2,600,000
private property	6,800,000
crops/livestock/fishery	76,800,000

The Disaster

A little more than two months after Typhoon Ike spent its fury on the Philippines, another major typhoon, Agnes (Philippine codename "Undang") headed toward the country. It entered the Philippines on November 3, and followed a northerly course at a speed of 22 km/hour. Center winds were estimated at 205 km/hour. Typhoon Agnes hit land on November 5 in eastern Samar province, causing heavy damage to coconut and banana trees and houses. The typhoon then skirted northern Leyte province, the northern tip of Cebu, northern Panay island, and the Busuanga islands. It finally moved off to the South China Sea on November 6.

PHILIPPINES - Typhoon Agnes

Typhoon Agnes' destructive winds spawned tidal surges, which caused considerable damage, particularly in the province of Capiz. Roads and bridges were made impassable. Power poles and lines in ten provinces were knocked down completely cutting off electric service to 104 municipalities and rural areas. Houses and other buildings were totally ruined and a wide swath of staple crop lands was destroyed. More than 85,000 families were left homeless and casualties numbered more than a thousand.

Action Taken by the Government of Philippines (GOP)

Soon after the typhoon whipped through, President Marcos declared a state of calamity in the affected areas of the central Philippines. The Ministry of Social Services and Development and the Philippine National Red Cross spearheaded national relief operations. They distributed food and clothing and set up temporary housing. The Philippine Armed Forces, supplied air, sea, and land transport to bring relief commodities to the victims. The National Food Authority and the Ministry of Health worked with GOP relief agencies in meeting the basic requirements of food and medicine for the emergency. In addition to these government agencies, civic, private, and religious organizations played a vital role in alleviating the plight of disaster victims.

Assistance Provided by the United States Government

On November 8, U.S. Ambassador Stephen W. Bosworth determined that Typhoon Agnes had caused a major disaster and provided a check for \$25,000 to the Governor of Capiz for immediate disaster relief. In addition, OFDA provided the U.S. Mission \$1,000 to buy and airfreight 400 5-gallon water containers to the province of Capiz on Panay Island from elsewhere in the Philippines.

Assessments of the area revealed that housing and school reconstruction, restoration of electrical power, and distribution of food aid were top priorities. Accordingly, OFDA first made a grant of \$40,000 to the Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP) for a housing construction program managed by the Pagtambayayong Foundation (PF) for 700 families in Cebu province. This grant supplemented \$25,000 of PBSP's own funds. PF, the implementing agency, stresses relief through self-help and, therefore, involved the beneficiaries in the planning, implementation, and accounting phases of the project.

PHILIPPINES - Typhoon Agnes

OFDA next provided \$500,000 to help the GOP's National Electrification Administration re-establish electric services. Almost 10,000 power poles were knocked down by the storm of which more than 5,000 were damaged beyond repair. About 50% of the cost of the project was earmarked for the purchase of new poles and most of the balance went for labor costs. The remainder paid for supplies such as hand tools, vehicle fuel, insulators, and emergency repair of warehouses.

CARE outlined a school repair program similar to the one it had implemented in the wake of Typhoon Ike two months previously. Typhoon Agnes mainly damaged the three-classroom type of primary school building. CARE proposed repairing 1,278 classrooms buildings which had roof, damage. The total cost came to \$521,603; \$184,603 remaining from the Typhoon Ike disaster was transferred to help pay for this project, while OFDA provided the additional \$337,000.

Finally, the AID Food for Peace (FFP) Office approved a CRS request for rice and NFDM for a three-month emergency feeding program. A total of 2,500 MT of rice and 525 MT of NFDM was distributed. The cost of the rice was \$775,000. Its ocean transport cost \$362,500. The NFDM came to \$340,900, with ocean freight costs totaling \$76,100.

Summary of USG Assistance

Ambassador's Authority - check to relief fund.....	\$25,000
Grant to PBSP for housing repair project.....	\$40,000
400 5-gallon water containers and air freight.....	\$1,008
Grant to GOP for restoration of electric power.....	\$500,000
Grant to CARE for school repair project.....	\$521,603
Total OFDA assistance (includes \$89,500 obligated in FY 1984)...	\$1,087,611
Total FFP assistance.....	\$1,554,500
	TOTAL
	\$2,642,111

Assistance Provided by U.S. Private Voluntary Organizations

CARE - donated \$12,300 for water tanks and repair of schools, and implemented a school repair project with OFDA-donated funds.

PHILIPPINES - Typhoon Agnes

CRS - provided \$65,000 for shelter, food, and medicine, and distributed 3.025 MT of U.S. Title II food.

TOTAL \$77,300

Assistance Provided by the International Community

Norway - donated \$79,096 in cash to UNICEF for nutrition, water supply, and health services.

UNDP - provided \$30,000 in cash through UNICEF.

UNICEF - provided \$50,000 in cash for medicine.

TOTAL \$159,096