



PHILIPPINES – FLOODS

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- In early August, heavy monsoon rains exacerbated by Typhoon Haikui caused flooding in the Manila metropolitan area and much of northern and eastern Philippines, killing 109 people, displacing approximately 1.1 million others, and affecting nearly 4.2 million individuals, according to the Government of the Philippines (GPH) Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD). The disaster prompted the GPH to launch search-and-rescue efforts; provide food, potable water, and clothing to displaced populations; and announce that it is prepared to release approximately \$143 million in disaster assistance funds for flood response activities throughout the country.
- On August 7, 2012, U.S. Ambassador Harry K. Thomas Jr. declared a disaster due to the effects of the floods. In response, USAID's Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA) has provided \$500,000 for distribution of relief supplies to flood-affected populations, as well as emergency logistics and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) support.
- From August 8 to 10, USAID/OFDA East Asia regional staff assessed flood-affected areas of metropolitan Manila and provinces in Central Luzon and Calabarzon regions, noting that GPH agencies are managing the situation well, with no immediate, life-threatening conditions observed. Representatives from the Australian Government Overseas Aid Program (AusAID) joined the first day of the assessment, and USAID/OFDA, U.S. Government staff based in the Philippines, and relief agency partners conducted a second assessment in Rizal Province on August 15. USAID/OFDA staff note that the humanitarian situation appears to be stabilizing, particularly in Manila, where floodwaters continue to recede and families are returning to their houses. As of August 17, approximately 87 percent of people had returned home from Manila-area evacuation centers, while the nationwide displaced population had decreased by 10 percent to more than 987,000 people, according to the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE		Source
Deaths Resulting from Tropical Storm Haikui-Related Flooding	109	OCHA – August 17, 2012
Displaced Population at the Height of the Emergency	1.1 million	OCHA – August 17, 2012
Total Affected Population ¹	4.2 million	DSWD – August 16, 2012

HUMANITARIAN FUNDING PROVIDED IN FY 2012 ²	
USAID/OFDA Assistance to the Philippines	\$500,000
Total USAID Assistance to the Philippines for Floods	\$500,000

Context

- On average, between six and nine tropical storms make landfall in the Philippines each year. The typhoon season in the Philippines generally coincides with the annual monsoon season, with activity peaking between July and October.
- During recent assessments, USAID/OFDA staff noted that floods primarily affected low-lying areas near rivers, lakes, or other waterways, with areas at higher elevation sustaining limited damage. Throughout the areas visited—Bulacan, Laguna, Pampanga, and Rizal provinces and metropolitan Manila—USAID/OFDA staff observed that most main roads remained open and passable, while a number of secondary roads in flood-affected areas were inundated. Despite the presence of waist-deep water in some areas, USAID/OFDA staff noted limited destruction of houses, and most markets and stores remained open, enabling families to purchase food, water, and other supplies.

¹ The affected figure represents the total number of people who experienced the floods, rather than the population in need of humanitarian assistance.

² Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds.

WASH

- In the areas visited during the USAID/OFDA disaster impact assessments, affected families reported receiving water via the piped water system, through local government distributions, and from nearby stores. USAID/OFDA staff observed that affected individuals have access to latrines in evacuation centers but identified hygiene as a potential concern, particularly in locations where families may stay in the centers for several weeks or months.
- The USAID/OFDA assessment is consistent with findings by DSWD and the International Organization for Migration that the immediate provision of potable water by local authorities minimized the risk of a disease outbreak at the outset of the floods. However, a risk remains, as many of the sites used as evacuation centers, such as schools and gymnasiums, were not designed to host evacuees, and water and sanitation facilities are extended beyond their normal use, while displaced households lack sufficient hygiene items. The GPH has requested that members of the WASH Cluster—the coordinating body for humanitarian WASH activities in the Philippines—assist with providing hygiene promotion materials and water and hygiene supplies, according to OCHA.
- To address the WASH needs of flood-affected families in Central Luzon Region—particularly in heavily affected provinces where standing water may cause people to remain in evacuation centers for up to three months—USAID/OFDA has contributed \$300,000 to Catholic Relief Services (CRS) to provide water kits to enable approximately 3,040 families to safely store water. The program also will promote safe hygiene practices through training on hand washing, water storage, and safe disposal of debris, as well as provide cash-for-work employment for displaced individuals who participate in community clean-up activities or construct bathing facilities in evacuation centers.

Logistics

- The USAID/OFDA assessment also identified provision of relief supplies as a priority need among flood-affected individuals, as well as logistical support to ensure that the commodities reach all affected locations, including those in inundated areas. Receiving relief items will help families returning to their houses replace items damaged in the floods and provide them support to withstand the remainder of the rainy season.
- OCHA reports that the Logistics Cluster aims to aid the GPH and humanitarian organizations in delivering food and non-food assistance to approximately 989,000 vulnerable, flood-affected individuals in coming months. To achieve this goal, the U.N. World Food Program (WFP) has dispatched 26 trucks to transport GPH relief supplies, WFP high-energy biscuits, and the nutritional supplement Plumpy'Doz.
- USAID/OFDA has contributed \$100,000 to WFP to support ongoing logistics efforts in response to the August flooding, as well as augment capacity in the Philippines throughout the current rainy season. USAID/OFDA assistance will facilitate logistics coordination and transportation of emergency commodities for the GPH and relief agencies.

DRR

- The USAID/OFDA assessment team visited Mabitac municipality in Laguna Province, where USAID/OFDA has supported several disaster risk reduction (DRR) initiatives through WFP. With USAID/OFDA assistance, officials from the local fire department trained a local rescue team in water rescue, first aid, rappelling, and other first responder skills. The approximately 20-member rescue team conducted all flood rescues in Mabitac during the current floods, with no casualties reported to date.
- Through WFP, USAID/OFDA also worked with the local government to implement a waste management program, including clearing garbage from canals and gutters to facilitate the flow of water. According to one local official, the cleared waterways enabled water to move swiftly through the canals and gutters, reducing the amount of flooding compared to previous floods in the area.
- To date in FY 2012, USAID/OFDA has provided nearly \$4 million for DRR programs in the Philippines to help build the capacity of local government and communities to better prepare for and respond to disasters through support to WFP, as well as through support for U.S. Forest Service disaster professionals to train GPH staff on the incident command system—a disaster management framework designed to integrate personnel, equipment, procedures, facilities, and communications during emergencies. In addition, ongoing USAID/OFDA DRR programs in the Philippines are helping the GPH Department of Education mainstream DRR into its secondary school curriculum and improving the capacity of the Philippine Red Cross to respond to disasters by enhancing preparedness and disaster management capabilities.

Other Humanitarian Assistance

- AusAID, the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection Office (ECHO), and the Canadian International Development Agency have announced plans to provide a total of approximately \$3 million to deliver food, water, sanitation kits, medical aid, health education, and psychosocial services to flood-affected people, as well as to provide shelter assistance and support debris cleanup, through WFP, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the Philippine Red Cross, and other partners. In addition, AusAID previously provided approximately \$1 million to WFP to pre-position rice, which WFP may direct toward the floods response, if needed.
- The Republic of Korea has also announced plans to provide \$200,000 in humanitarian assistance to the GPH.

USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE FOR PHILIPPINES FLOODS PROVIDED IN FY 2012¹

Implementing Partner	Activity	Location	Amount
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE²			
CRS	Logistics and Relief Commodities, WASH	Central Luzon Region	\$400,000
WFP	Logistics and Relief Commodities	Affected Areas	\$100,000
TOTAL USAID/OFDA			\$500,000
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO PHILIPPINES FOR FLOODS IN FY 2012			\$500,000

¹ Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds.

² USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of August 20, 2012.

PUBLIC DONATION INFORMATION

- The most effective way people can assist relief efforts is by making cash contributions to humanitarian organizations that are conducting relief operations. A list of humanitarian organizations that are accepting cash donations for response efforts in the Philippines can be found at www.interaction.org.
- USAID encourages cash donations because they allow aid professionals to procure the exact items needed (often in the affected region); reduce the burden on scarce resources (such as transportation routes, staff time, and warehouse space); can be transferred very quickly and without transportation costs; support the economy of the disaster-stricken region; and ensure culturally, dietary, and environmentally appropriate assistance.
- More information can be found at:
The Center for International Disaster Information: www.cidi.org or +1.202.821.1999.
Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at www.reliefweb.int.