Situation Update

• Recovery efforts led by the Government of the Philippines are underway to support families affected by typhoons Rolly (Goni) and Ulysses (Vamco) in the regions of Bicol and Cagayan Valley.

• The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council, reports that agricultural losses and damage from the typhoons amount to US$ 194 million (PHP 9.3 billion).

• The United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) has approved US$ 3.1 million for WFP, International Organization for Migration (IOM) and United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) to carry out humanitarian assistance: cash-based assistance, shelter repair, and water and sanitation.

In Numbers

Over 4.2 million people affected across eight regions

US$ 194 million in agricultural damages

4,222 households or 16,380 individuals are staying in evacuation centres

1,923 households or 8,091 individuals are staying outside evacuation centres, with relatives or friends

Highlights

• WFP bolsters the Government’s response to Typhoon Rolly with cash-based transfers for immediate food needs of the people most affected. In the first round, WFP reached more than 5,408 households (27,040 individuals) in the municipalities of Virac and San Miguel in Catanduanes, and Malilipot and Malinao in Albay.

• The Government of Australia will support WFP and the Food and Agriculture Organization in providing livelihood and cash assistance to households affected by Typhoon Ulysses in Cagayan Valley.

WFP Response

Programme

• WFP augments response efforts through cash assistance projects in the provinces of Albay and Catanduanes in Bicol.

• WFP rolled out its cash-based assistance project to support typhoon-affected families in Bicol region in December 2020. In January, it continued cash distribution through its financial service provider partner, Western Union. Throughout the first round, WFP reached a total of 5,408 families (27,040 individuals) in the provinces of Albay and Catanduanes. Each family received US$ 52 (PHP 2,500) to support their food and nutrition needs, basic shelter repair, and other essentials.

  o WFP received US$ 523,636 from the Government of Australia for a cash-based intervention targeting the most vulnerable groups including households with pregnant and lactating women, children, and elderly. With this, WFP reached 252 families (1,260 individuals) in January, bringing the total to 2,443 families (12,215 individuals) in the municipality of San Miguel in Catanduanes.

Prior to registration of beneficiaries in SCOPE and cash pay-out, WFP distributed flyers with guidance on how to claim their assistance from nearby Western Union outlets. Photo: © OCHA/Martín San Diego
With US$ 667,000 from the United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), in January, WFP provided cash-based assistance to 2,965 families (14,825 individuals) in Virac, Catanduanes and municipalities of Malilipot and Malinao, in Albay.

From 27 to 30 January, WFP, IOM, and UNICEF conducted a high-level visit and mid-term review of its UN CERF-funded projects in Albay and Catanduanes, led by United Nations Resident Coordinator Gustavo Gonzales and the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. The four-day mission allowed the UN agencies to track the progress of its ongoing assistance in Bicol and review the mid-term results of its project goals and targets. The mission also included German Ambassador to the Philippines Anke Reifenstüel, Canadian Ambassador to the Philippines Peter MacArthur, and Philippine Red Cross Executive Director Elizabeth Zavalla. WFP, IOM, and UNICEF were represented by Alice Follosco, Troy Dooley, and Niko Manos Wieland, respectively.

WFP, IOM, and UNICEF's activities in Catanduanes are reinforced by SCOPE, WFP's flexible and reliable beneficiary information and transfer management platform. SCOPE is particularly useful as it enables digital profiling and registration, and accurate deduplication, ensuring an easier and streamlined process.

WFP and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) will implement emergency assistance aimed at restoring food security and agricultural livelihoods in Typhoon Ulysses-affected areas in Cagayan Valley. Through a contribution from the Government of Australia, FAO will initiate short-term agriculture-based income-generating activities (farming and fishing). Meanwhile, WFP will complement the support with a one-off unconditional cash-based transfer that will help them restart/rehabilitate their disrupted agricultural activities.

Along with its logistics augmentation support to the Government's COVID-19 response, WFP is also providing transportation and logistics equipment to the Government's disaster recovery operations. Since January 2021, WFP has provided 24 trucks to the Department of Social Welfare and Development in transporting 17,626 hygiene kits, 10,000 Family Food Packs, and 4,500 kitchen kits to Iloilo, Northern Samar, Davao City, Benguet, Leyte, and Zamboanga.

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WFP Philippines Situation Report #5
12 February 2021

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