

WFP Philippines

Typhoon Odette - Situation Report #5

13 January 2022



Three airlifts sponsored by the United Parcel Service (UPS) carrying mobile storage units for the establishment of logistics hub arrived in Davao City from Malaysia on 11-12 January. ©WFP/Maitta Rizza Pugay

In Numbers

8 million people affected¹

10 regions affected¹

208,480 people still displaced¹

111,500 ha of affected crop areas³

Highlights

- Twelve new mobile storage units arrived from the UN Humanitarian Response Depot in Malaysia. These will be used to establish three logistics hubs in Caraga, in addition to the one already operational in Surigao City.
- Alarming malnutrition rates pre-typhoon in some impacted areas could further deteriorate unless immediate food needs are met in the next six months.
- Assessments in affected provinces outside Caraga indicated market prices are still unstable, and food and cash are among top needs.

Situation Update

- Global reinsurer [Munich Re](#) ranked Typhoon Odette as the world's **second deadliest natural hazard in 2021** (with 408 fatalities) after the earthquake in Haiti (with 2,248 fatalities) in August 2021.
- Government verification of the number of people affected by the typhoon continues, with estimation currently at 8 million. The number of displaced people decreased from almost half a million to 208,500 over the past week as more people were able to leave evacuation centres. However, the typhoon's impact on malnutrition and health in the medium- long-term could be massive. **In Caraga, before the typhoon hit, 53 percent of families were unable to afford a nutritious diet and childhood stunting was at 36 percent (indicating a "very high public health significance").**
- **Amid the absence of clean water sources, cases of deaths due to diarrhoea** have been [reported](#) in Caraga. Since the typhoon struck, there have been 895 cases and 9 deaths in Siargao Island and Dinagat Islands.

WFP Response

WFP is scaling up its efforts to provide direct assistance to the affected population as well as facilitating relief efforts of the Government and the wider humanitarian community via telecommunications and logistics support. WFP's overall response plan, valued at US\$ 25.8 million, aims to 1) provide a combination of food and cash assistance to complement the Government's distribution of food packs 2) augment relief items transportation, and bridge telecommunication outages in impacted areas.

Logistics Support

- To date, **WFP has supplemented the Government's operations with 152 trucks carrying more than 173,000 family food packs**, as well as other relief items such as hygiene kits, sleeping kits, and family kits. These items were dispatched to worst-hit areas including, Surigao City, Dumaguete City, Himamaylan City, Cebu, Bohol, Iloilo, and Southern Leyte; and to airports in Clark, Pampanga and Mactan Airbase, Cebu. As an archipelago, transporting food and other necessities to affected islands in an expedited manner has been one of the challenges faced by the Government. WFP is bridging the gaps and complementing existing efforts since the day Typhoon Odette struck.

¹ [DSWD DROMIC Report on Typhoon Odette - 11 January 2021](#)

² [Super Typhoon Odette Humanitarian Needs and Priorities](#)

³ [NDRRMC Situation Report #28 - 10 January 2021](#)

- **Three airlifts carrying 12 mobile storage units (MSU) required for the establishment of logistics hub arrived in the Philippines** on 10-12 January. The MSUs were procured from the United Nations Humanitarian Response Depot (UNHRD) in Malaysia and were transported from Subang to Davao City in Mindanao, courtesy of the United Parcel Service (UPS). The airlifts also brought additional telecommunications equipment.
- WFP is preparing to establish **three additional logistics hubs** on Siargao Island and Dinagat Islands. To this end, WFP is undertaking assessments with the Government on potential sites, logistics infrastructure and key routes. One site in Siargao has been identified and approved by the Government. A first logistics hub was installed in Surigao City days after Odette's landfall and is operational.

Emergency Telecommunications (ETC)

- In areas where power and communication lines were damaged, WFP immediately responded to the Government's request for support **to re-establish communication** through the deployment of emergency communications devices and vehicles.
- To date, **4 Mobile Operations Vehicles for Emergencies (MOVE)** and **11 satellite communications systems (VSATs)** are spread out in 13 different sites across 7 cities and islands (Surigao City, Sipalay City, Alegria, Butuan City, Siargao, Dinagat, and Socorro).
- Before the typhoon hit WFP deployed two MOVE sets and one IT expert to the affected areas for anticipatory support measures. The IT expert remains on location to support the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT).
- WFP plans to expand telecommunications services to humanitarian agencies responding in new sites in Maasin City, Southern Leyte and Surigao City.
- The Global ETC Cluster based in Dubai will reinforce its support through the **deployment of an ETC coordinator and three IT specialists** (one from WFP Fast IT Telecommunications Emergency Support Team; two from standby partner Ericsson Response).

Food/Cash Assistance

- In preparation for its food and cash distribution to affected households in Caraga, WFP is currently coordinating with the local government to identify

the most affected *barangays* (community) and establish criteria for beneficiary targeting.

Assessments

- WFP initiated a new rapid needs assessment in the provinces of **Bohol, Cebu, Palawan, Leyte, Southern Leyte, and Negros Occidental**. They have data of the typhoon's impacts beyond Caraga given information from these areas was severely limited in the days following Odette's landfall. WFP found that:
 - ✓ Immediate needs are shelter, food and cash assistance, and livelihood support. If life-saving needs are not met (particularly food and shelter), the situation may deteriorate, with more people suffering from health, security, and protection issues.
 - ✓ Government food assistance is being provided with logistics support from WFP, which may only be available for a limited period and is not yet covering all areas nor reaching all eligible beneficiaries.
 - ✓ Facilities, networks, and potential partners for multi-purpose cash interventions are relatively operational in most of the affected areas, except for Bohol. Areas outside Caraga are still experiencing limited connectivity and require restoration.
 - ✓ Market prices for basic commodities, housing materials, and fuel are fluctuating. The Government has initiated a price freeze, but key informants noted that prices of commodities may continue to be unstable due to high demand.

Resourcing Update

- WFP thanks the governments of **Australia, Brazil, Canada, Ireland, and the United States of America**; the **UN Central Emergency Response Fund**; and private sector donors including the **Bank of America** for the contributions. WFP also expresses gratitude to the United States of America for its regular annual funding support of USD 500,000 that serves as WFP's contingent fund to jumpstart logistics support in times of emergencies.
- WFP has received USD 6.18 million or 24 percent of the total needs (USD 25.8 million) for its Typhoon Odette response in three sectors: food security and agriculture (USD 20.8 million), logistics (USD 4 million), and emergency telecommunications (USD 1 million).
- As of 11 January, WFP has so far reached 56

percent (280,886 meals) of its targeted half a million meals fundraised in its [ShareTheMeal](#) campaign. This is equivalent to USD 224,708 (USD 80 cents per meal donated).

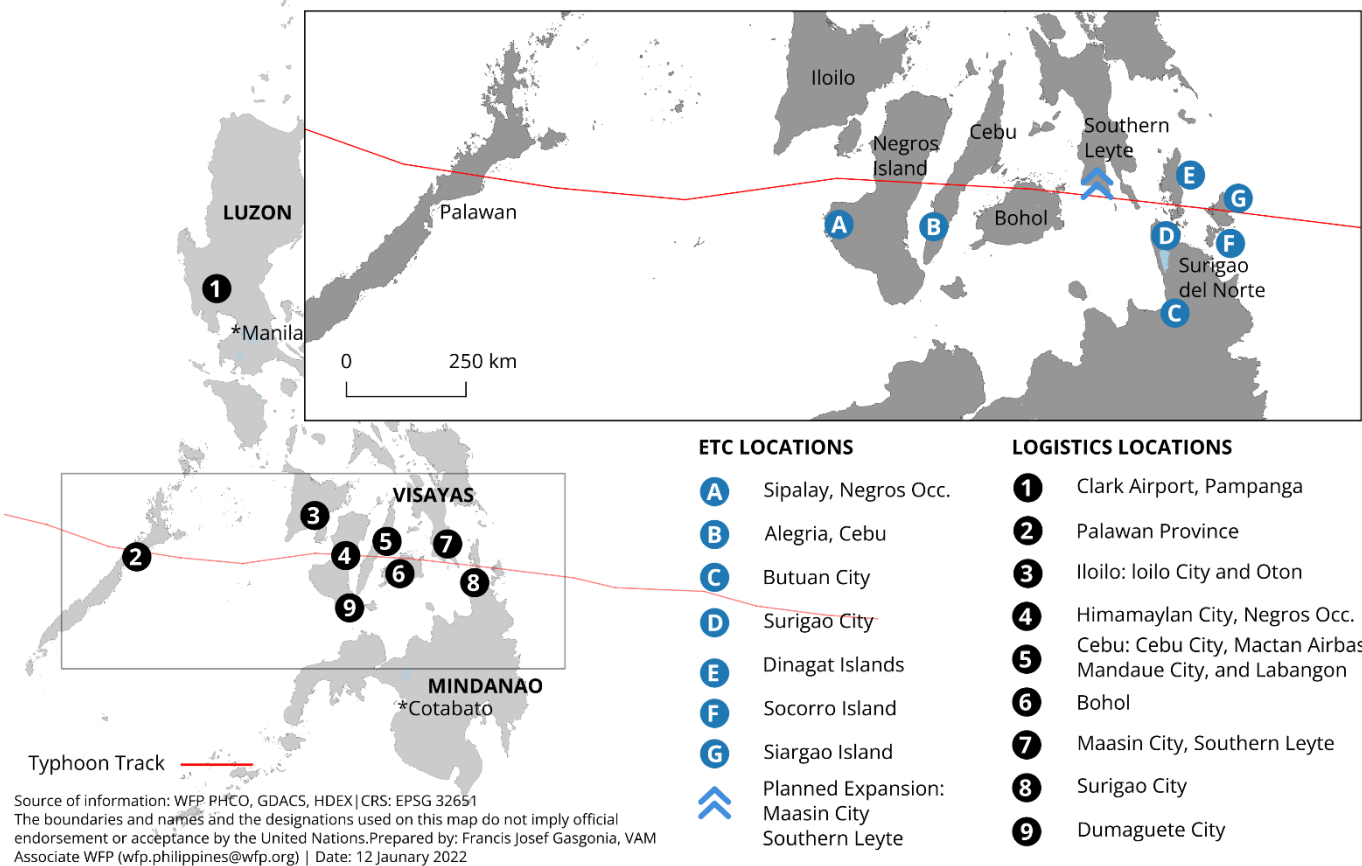
Gaps and Challenges

- Although the commercial sector is gradually resuming regular operations, there is a limited number of shipping companies operating cargo vessels from Surigao to Siargao Island and Dinagat Islands, thus limiting available options for transporting humanitarian cargo. Challenging

weather conditions in typhoon-affected areas are also likely to impact logistics operations.

- Daily COVID-19 cases in the Philippines reached their highest since the pandemic began, with 33,200 cases confirmed on 11 January. The exponential increase is due to the highly contagious Omicron variant. Field missions of UN agencies responding to impacts of Typhoon Odette will continue, however, safety protocols are emphasized. Organizations are encouraged to deploy healthy, and fully vaccinated personnel to the field.

WFP World Food Programme **TYPHOON RAI/ODETTE EMERGENCY RESPONSE: ETC AND LOGISTICS LOCATIONS AO 12-01-2022** 



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