In Numbers

56,000 beneficiaries have received food assistance from WFP, with plans to reach a total of 115,000 people in Siargao and Dinagat Islands

510 trucks have been mobilized by WFP to transport over 572,500 family food packs from government food packaging facilities

13 new satellite dishes (VSATs) were provided by WFP to support the Department of Information and Communications (DICT) of the Philippines

WFP Response

Food/Cash Assistance

- WFP is providing emergency food assistance to typhoon-affected families in Caraga. Rice distributions are ongoing in Dinagat Islands and Siargao Island – clusters of islands in northeastern Mindanao that bore the brunt of the typhoon.

- In Dinagat Islands, WFP has reached 25,510 people (5,102 families) out of 50,000 targeted individuals since distributions began in early February. In Siargao Island, WFP has reached 30,590 people (6,118 families) out of 65,000 targeted people since distributions began on 12 February. WFP works in partnership with CARE (a non-governmental organization) in these two provinces. WFP has procured 1,155 mt of locally sourced rice for Siargao and Dinagat. Each family receives one 50kg sack of rice.

- Food distributions in Caraga are being monitored by non-governmental organization Philippine Business for Social Progress as WFP’s third-party monitor. WFP is committed to transparency and accountability through distribution and post-distribution monitoring.

Highlights

- WFP is preparing cash assistance in Southern Leyte and vouchers assistance in Surigao City and Surigao del Norte to start in the week of 7 March.

- WFP is orienting cooperating partners and sensitizing beneficiaries in the provinces of Southern Leyte and Bohol.

- WFP has received a new request to transport an additional 100,000 family food packs and other relief items for the Government of the Philippines.

Overview

On 16 and 17 December, Typhoon Odette (international name ‘Rai’) made landfall nine times across seven provinces. It affected 11 of the 17 regions in the Philippines. Prior to landfall, WFP’s partnership with the Department of Information and Communications Technology ensured that two Mobile Operations Vehicles for Emergencies (MOVE) sets* were prepositioned to support areas where connectivity had been severed. A day after landfall, WFP trucks were en route to deliver family food packs and other critical relief items on behalf of the Government, through the Office of Civil Defense. WFP’s emergency telecommunications cluster (ETC) and logistics support remain present across typhoon-affected areas.

Following rapid assessments, WFP plans to assist 380,000 of the most vulnerable people in Surigao del Norte, Dinagat Islands, Bohol, and Southern Leyte through a combination of in-kind food (rice), vouchers, and cash. WFP’s food distributions are ongoing in Surigao del Norte and Dinagat Islands, and voucher and cash programmes will begin in March. Three months of immediate assistance will be followed by three months of early recovery activities, ending in June 2022.

WFP’s overall requirement stands at US$35.6 million, of which US$17.5 million is funded and $2.9 million has been pledged. WFP needs an additional US$15.2 million to ensure full programme implementation over a six-month period.

*MOVE sets are rapidly deployable emergency communication devices integrated into custom vehicles that enable ICT-enabled support to disaster-stricken areas. MOVE is unique to the Philippines; the global prototype having been co-built and co-designed by DICT and WFP emergency telecommunications experts over the last year. These were used for the first time in response to the impact of Typhoon Odette.
Preparations for Cash / Voucher Assistance ongoing

- WFP is launching a value voucher programme for a total of 10,000 families in Surigao City and Surigao del Norte. WFP has completed market and retailer assessments, which will soon be followed by assistance. The programme aims to meet the basic food needs of the affected population, based on assessments conducted by WFP in January.

- WFP is finalizing cash distribution plans for subsequent assistance in Southern Leyte and on the islands of Siargao, Dinagat, and Bohol.

- WFP is conducting orientation for cooperating partners and planning beneficiary sensitization in the provinces of Southern Leyte and Bohol.

- For the validation of beneficiary data and lists, WFP coordinates with government partners in preparation for the planned cash-based assistance in Southern Leyte, Bohol and Surigao City.

Logistics Support

- WFP has received a new request to transport an additional 100,000 family food packs and other relief items for the Government of the Philippines.

- Since the onset of Odette, WFP has mobilized 510 trucks and transported more than half a million (572,500) family food packs from the food packaging facilities of the Department of Social Welfare and Development. These deliveries represent half of the total number of family food packs dispatched by the Government through the National Resource Operations Centre in Metro Manila and Visayas Disaster Resource Centre in Cebu.

- The family food packs, together with other critical non-food items are being delivered to various destinations affected by the typhoon, including the provinces of Palawan, Iloilo, Negros Occidental, Negros Oriental, Bohol, Cebu, Southern Leyte, Dinagat Islands, Surigao del Norte (Siargao and Surigao City), and Agusan del Norte (Butuan City).

Emergency Telecommunications

- An internet connectivity site has been installed at an accommodation used by humanitarian workers on Dinagat Island. To ensure connectivity for the humanitarian hubs on Dinagat Island and Siargao Island, the waiver process and vendor registration for a local internet service provider is being finalized. The humanitarian hubs are intended to be shared with UN offices in the future.

Resourcing Update

- WFP has received contributions and pledges totalling 57 percent of its overall requirement of US$35.6 million. It urgently requires an additional $15.2 million.

- WFP thanks the governments of Australia, Brazil, Canada, France, Japan, Ireland, the Republic of Korea, the United States of America, the UN Central Emergency Response Fund, and private sector partners for confirmed contributions (US$17.5 million). WFP is also grateful to pledges (US$2.9 million) from the Asian Development Bank and the private sector.

WFP has reached its initial fundraising goal of 500,000 meals on its crowdfunding app #ShareTheMeal. At US$0.80 cents per meal, WFP has raised US$400,000 to meet the food needs of families affected by Typhoon Odette.