In Numbers

66,000 beneficiaries have received food assistance from WFP, with plans to reach a total of 115,000 people in Surigao and Dinagat Islands.

544 trucks have been mobilized by WFP to transport over 612,000 family food packs from food packaging facilities of the Government of the Philippines.

14 new satellite dishes (VSATs) were installed with WFP's support, of which 10 were donated by WFP, to assist the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT).

Highlights

- WFP conducted community consultations through focus group discussions with 58 respondents (36 women, 22 men) in Surigao City – including the elderly, young mothers and fathers, teenagers, and barangay leaders – to ensure different perspectives are considered in programme implementation.

- WFP is coordinating with government partners to validate beneficiary lists for cash assistance in Southern Leyte and in Bohol, and for voucher assistance in Surigao del Norte.

- WFP is starting cash distributions this week in Southern Leyte and Bohol, and is planning a value voucher programme in Surigao City and Surigao del Norte in the coming weeks.

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. Immediate assistance will be followed by 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 connectivity to disaster-stricken areas. MOVE is unique to the Philippines; the global prototype has been co-built and co-designed by DICT and WFP emergency telecommunications experts. Their first use was in response to Typhoon Odette.

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 25,565 people (5,113 families) out of 50,000 targeted individuals since distributions began in early February. In Siargao Island, WFP has reached 40,320 people (8,064 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.

Start of Cash / Voucher Assistance

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

WFP is planning a value voucher programme in Surigao City and Surigao del Norte in the weeks to come. The programme aims to meet the basic food needs of the affected population, based on assessments conducted by WFP in January.

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

**Logistics Support**

Since the onset of Odette, WFP has mobilized 544 trucks and transported more than half a million (612,000) 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.

WFP is working with its cooperating partners to strengthen their logistics and food handling capacity.

**Emergency Telecommunications**

WFP continues to support DICT, the lead of the National Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC), to install new VSATs and maintain existing installations across the affected areas.

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**WFP FUNDING REQUIREMENTS**

- **$35.6 million**
  - 50% funded
  - 43% pledged
  - 7% unfunded

**Food & Cash**

- **$29.6 million**
  - 55% funded

**Logistics**

- **$5 million**
  - 69% funded

**ETC**

- **$1 million**
  - 60% funded

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**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.

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“I am seasonally employed and off duty from November until March. Exactly at this time Typhoon Odette hit us. Luckily, my family including our six children could stay in an evacuation centre during the typhoon, but our home was damaged. I am thankful for the sack of rice we received that keeps us going.”

- Gino (52), dump truck driver, Siargao Island

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8 March 2022