In Numbers

120,500 people have been reached by WFP; 54,500 of these received cash or vouchers.
550 trucks have been mobilized by WFP to transport 612,500 family food packs from the Government
24 locations have been connected to internet by WFP: 15 satellite dishes (VSATs) at government offices and 9 for humanitarian responders.

Highlights

• WFP delivered rice for 6,675 people in hard-to-reach Socorro Island.
• Heavy rains continue to challenge distributions in Southern Leyte, Surigao Del Norte and Dinagat Islands provinces.
• WFP expanded cash distributions from Bohol and Southern Leyte to Siargao Island; 7,820 individuals benefited so far.

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 (DICT) 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 Island, Bohol, and Southern Leyte through a combination of in-kind food (rice), vouchers, and cash. WFP’s food distributions started in January in Surigao del Norte, and voucher and cash programmes began in March in Bohol, Southern Leyte, Surigao Del Norte, Siargao Island and Dinagat Island. 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

• Voucher distributions in Surigao Del Norte (mainland) have reached 13,600 people. A voucher allows the recipient to select the quantity and type of food from a list of essential, nutritious food choices until the value of the voucher is reached. Should the value of the selected goods exceed the value of the voucher, the recipient can settle the balance with their own funds.

• WFP required retailers who are participating in the voucher assistance to offer fresh goods such as vegetables. This is to support a healthy as well as balanced diet. WFP ensured this at an early stage by preparatory consultations with the retailers.

As requested by WFP, a wide variety of fresh goods are offered at shops for voucher redemption in Surigao del Norte. © WFP/Martin Winkler
• 550 trucks have been mobilized by WFP to transport 612,500 family food packs and other relief items on behalf of the Government. The pace of cargo truck dispatches is expected to pick up with availability of Family Food Packs from DSWD in Manila and from the Department of Health for the movement of specialized nutritious foods.

• The hub WFP established for the Office of Civil Defense (OCD) in Surigao City after Odette has been taken down, as needs have decreased. The two Mobile Storage Units will be kept by OCD for future use. The hub was used for consolation of cargo before transport to final delivery locations through the affected region.

**EMERGENCY TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

• WFP continues to support the Government’s Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) to install new VSAT terminals and maintain existing installations for emergency connectivity across affected areas.

• Internet connectivity has been established in 24 sites across the Caraga region – Surigao City, Dinagat Island, and Siargao Island – as well as in Maasin City in Southern Leyte.

• On average, there are 625 daily users from seven UN agencies, six I/NGOs, government staff, and affected communities.

**Resourcing Update**

• WFP has received contributions and pledges totalling 57 percent of its overall requirement of US$35.6 million. It urgently requires $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 ($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. At US$0.80 cents per meal, WFP has raised US$400,000 to meet the food needs of families affected by Typhoon Odette.

"As the lead disaster response agency and head of the Food and Non-Food (FNI) Cluster, the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) has been working closely with WFP to move life-saving commodities nationwide. Specifically for Typhoon Odette, as of this moment, WFP was able to provide 405 trucks to move 410,835 Family Food Packs and various non-food items to the Visayas and Mindanao Regions. True to its spirit, working with the WFP Philippines Supply Chain Team is remarkable as it touches and reaches the lives of the most disadvantaged and affected families in times of disaster. The commitment and professionalism that the team displays made our collaboration effortless."

Irish Flor Sacramento-Yaranon, engineer
Chief Administrative Officer, Department of Social Welfare and Development – Visayas Disaster Resource Center