

CONSOLIDATED RAPID ASSESSMENT REPORT:

SUPER TYPHOON RAI (ODETTE)

PHILIPPINES

20 DEC 2021

HUMANITARIAN COUNTRY TEAM
(HCT)

INTER-CLUSTER COORDINATION
GROUP (ICCG) AND MINDANAO
HUMANITARIAN TEAM (MHT)





1.8M

PEOPLE AFFECTED

11

REGIONS AFFECTED



631k

PEOPLE DISPLACED



58

DEATHS

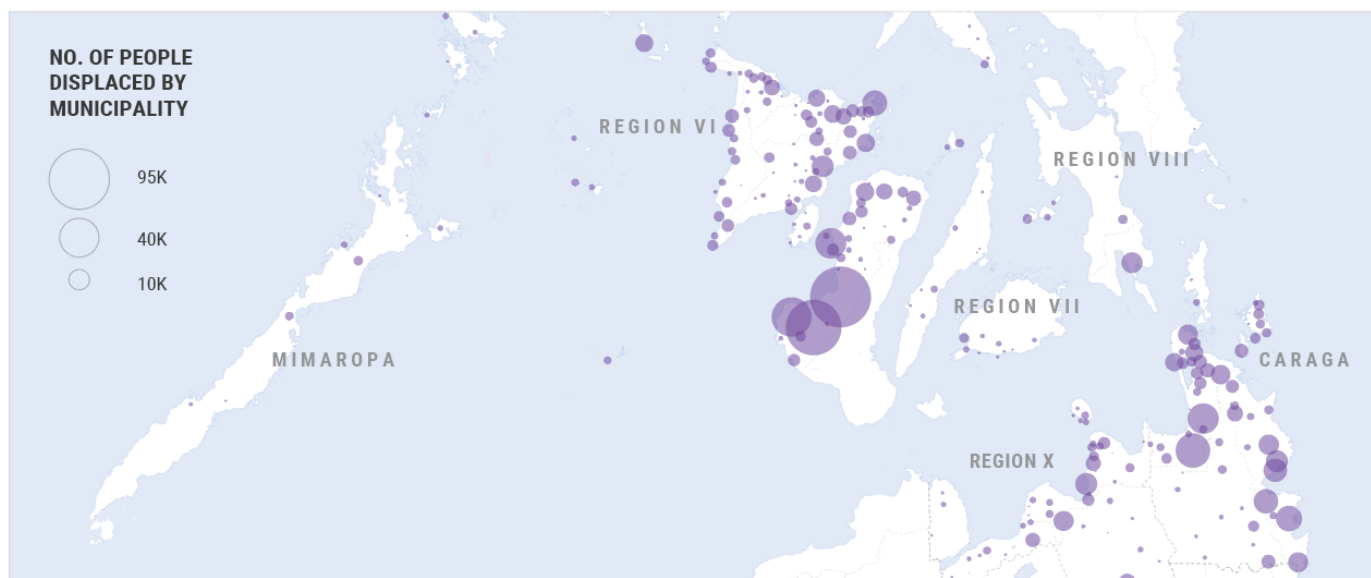


438k

PEOPLE **INSIDE**
EVACUATION
CENTERS

193k

PEOPLE **OUTSIDE**
EVACUATION
CENTERS



Impact Overview

Super Typhoon Rai (locally named Odette) made landfall on 16 December 2021 in Surigao del Norte Province before crossing central-southern Philippines, specifically the Visayas and Mindanao Islands, with maximum sustained winds of 195km/h and gustiness of 260km/h. Intensifying from a tropical storm to a super typhoon within hours, Rai brought torrential rains, violent winds, landslides and storm surges, making nine landfalls in seven provinces. Initial data suggested that Caraga and Regions VI, VII, VIII and IV-B (MIMAROPA) were hit hardest, with communities in Surigao del Norte, Dinagat Island, Southern Leyte, Bohol and Cebu most severely affected.

According to the Disaster Response Operations Monitoring and Information Center (DROMIC) data released on 20 December, over 1.8 million people (452,307 families) were affected in 3,286 barangays across Regions V, VI, VII, VIII, X, XI, MIMAROPA, and Caraga. The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) reported that 631,402 people remained displaced, most of them in evacuation centres.

In the first 72 hours, the typhoon left 63 cities and municipalities without electricity, as of 19 December only 9% of which has been restored. Authorities closed and restricted operations at 73 seaports. Initial reports indicated that some 20,102 houses were destroyed and 34,681 houses damaged, though this number is expected to significantly increase. Debris clearance, restoring power and communication remain of immediate importance.

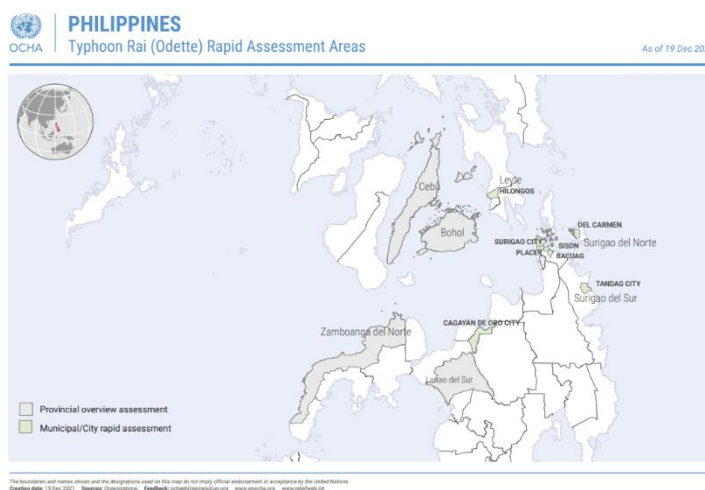
Priority needs include **food, potable water, temporary shelter, fuel, hygiene kits, medical supplies as well as protection services**. Affected people expressed the preference of cash assistance to access local markets where they had been restored.

Regional and local authorities are leading response activities. Assessments largely confirmed that additional capacity would be required to attend to growing humanitarian needs. On 19 December, the Government of the Philippines accepted the offer of the Humanitarian Country Team to provide assistance, which needs to be coordinated. Humanitarian partners started supporting local authorities through line ministries, with immediate relief and logistics support. Any mobilization of humanitarian partners was hampered by prevailing COVID-19 related precautionary measures and travel restrictions.

As of 19 December, a new weather system was forming over the Pacific, likely to bring more rains to eastern Visayas and Bicol regions over 24 and 25 December. Scaling up humanitarian support was urgent not least to avoid any further hazardous weather exposure and harm to already affected communities.

Methodology

The Humanitarian Country Team (HCT), working through the Inter-Cluster Coordination Group (ICCG) and the Mindanao Humanitarian Team (MHT) agreed to use a hybrid approach in conducting rapid assessments and gaining an overview of priority needs and gaps across most affected areas while benefiting from existing presence of partners on the ground. MHT and ICCG and their partners followed the same standardized multi-sectoral debrief form, which they were requested to complete. Where possible, this approach also included a combination of key informant interviews, focus group discussions and direct observations by humanitarian partners on the ground, as well as the collection of secondary data through satellite imagery¹, available government reports and social media accounts.



Given the access constraints in the hours and days after Super Typhoon made landfall as well as the ongoing COVID-19 movement precautions, both ICCG and MHT worked with a number of non-governmental organizations (NGO) and humanitarian partners already present in affected areas to facilitate primary data collection. Together, they used the Rapid Damage Assessment and Needs Analysis (RDANA) and Debriefing forms to collect initial data in the 72 hours after landfall. OCHA compiled and consolidated individual reports to identify priority humanitarian concerns and geographic areas in a Consolidated Rapid Assessment Report.

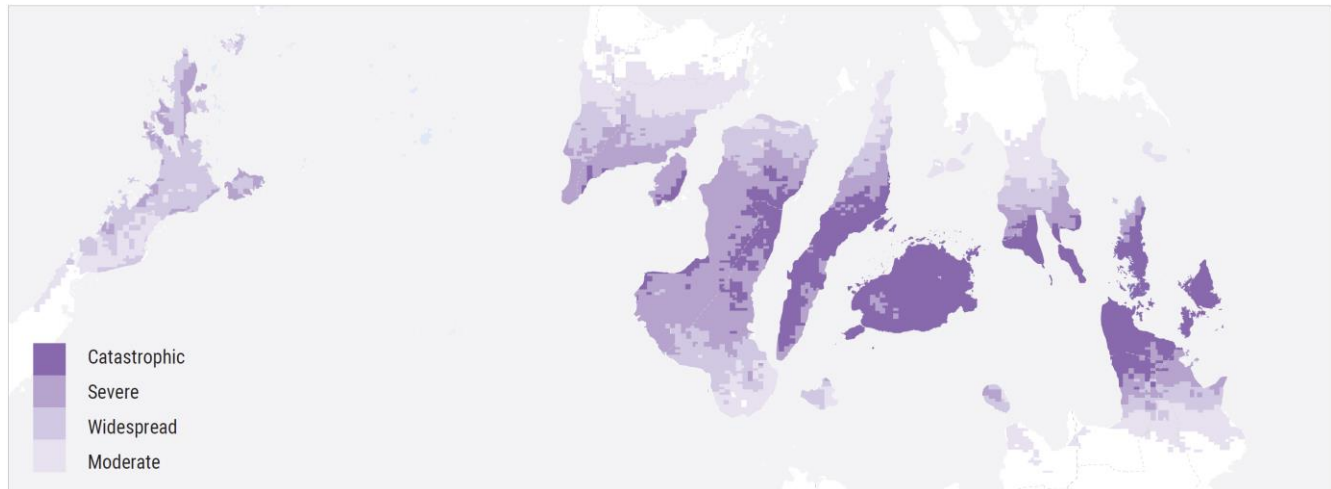
The Report builds on the Joint Analysis for Disaster Exposure (JADE) developed by the Pacific Disaster Centre (PDC), WFP and OCHA on 15 December and updated on 16 December, modeling the potential disaster impact on communities and the economy ahead of Super Typhoon Rai's landfall. The Assessment & Analysis Cell (A&A Cell) was also activated and provided remote support.

As of 19 December, at least 8 UN agencies - including DSS, IOM, OCHA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNFPA, WHO, WFP - as well as at least 16 international and local NGOs and foundations - including AAH, ACCORD, ADRA, Americares, Bidlisiw Foundation, CARE, Caritas Germany, CFSI, CRS, Handicap International, Oxfam, RAFI, Relief International, ShelterBox, Save the Children, Sumpay Mindanao, World Vision - participated in the rapid needs assessment exercise. In addition, authorities in Dinagat Province submitted an assessment form. Overall, partners shared 33 assessment forms with data from Regions VII, VIII, IX, X, BARMM, and Caraga.

¹ UNOSAT's published its Preliminary Satellite-Derived Standing Waters Analysis in the Philippines on 17 December 2021 at 2:14UTC, <https://unitar.org/maps/map/3413>

Impact

JADE PRE-DISASTER* DAMAGE ESTIMATES (Moderate to Catastrophic)



After first approaching Surigao del Norte Province, in the afternoon of 16 December, Typhoon Rai crossed central-southern Philippines, specifically the Visayas and Mindanao Islands, with maximum sustained winds of 195km/h and gustiness of 260km/h. Contrary to predictions, Rai intensified from a tropical storm to a super typhoon within hours before making landfall. Bringing torrential rains, violent winds, landslides and storm surges, Super Typhoon Rai made nine landfalls in seven provinces, including in Siargao (Surigao del Norte), Cagdianao (Dinagat Islands), Liloan and Padre Burgos (both in Southern Leyte), President Carlos P. Garcia and Bien Unido (both in Bohol), Carcar (Cebu), La Libertad (Negros Oriental) and in Roxas (Palawan).

Activating preparedness procedures and early warning messaging, the government pre-emptively evacuated 427,900 people to 2,861 evacuation centres across affected areas. Most remain displaced as of 20 December.

Super Typhoon Rai exited the Philippines Area of Responsibility on 18 December as the strongest storm to hit Mindanao in 10 years, drawing comparisons to Typhoon Washi (Sendong) in 2011 which hit on the same day and killed over 1,000 people and affected close to half a million people. While its intensity was comparable to Typhoon Goni (Rolly) which swept across southern Luzon in 2020 affecting over 2 million people, its impact was spread across a vast and diverse geographic area.

According to DROMIC data released on the morning of 20 December, over 1.8 million people (452,307 families) were affected in 3,286 barangays across Regions V, VI, VII, VIII, X, XI, MIMAROPA, and Caraga. NDRRMC reported that 631,402 people remained displaced, most of them in evacuation centres. Initial data suggested that Caraga and Regions VI, VII, VIII and IV-B (MIMAROPA) were most affected, with communities in Surigao del Norte, Dinagat Island and Southern Leyte bearing the brunt of the Typhoon. As assessments continued, partners identified extensive damage and humanitarian needs also in Bohol and Cebu.

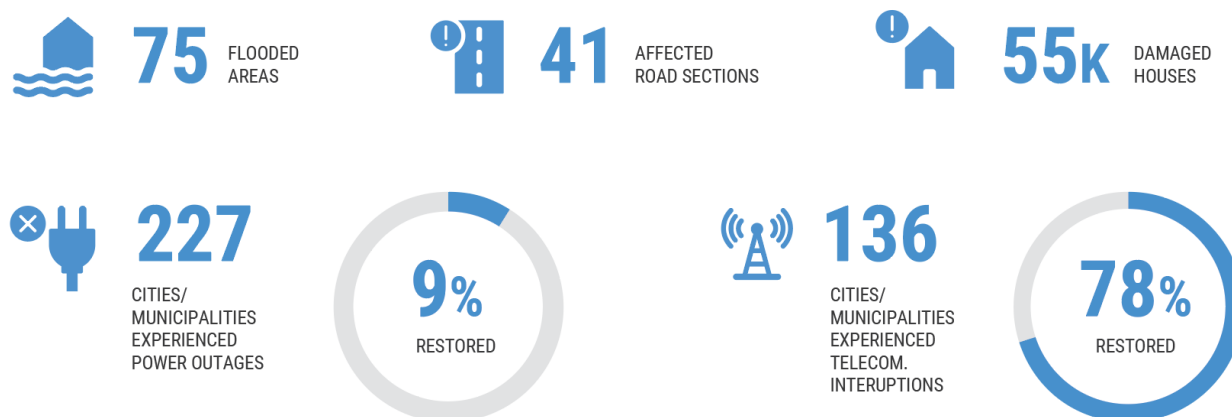
Authorities confirmed that 58 person died, and 199 people sustained injuries. The number of casualties and injured people, of displaced people and damaged infrastructure are expected to increase as debris clearing progresses, communication is re-established and isolated areas are reached.

The Education Cluster reported that almost 30,000 schools were affected interrupting educational activities for 12 million pupils in 11 regions. With many schools damaged and others used as evacuation centres, it was of priority to ensure the return to school after the year-end holidays.

Wind damage, flooding and landslides interrupted road access, power, and communication throughout affected areas. In the first 72 hours, Rai left 227 cities and municipalities without electricity and 135 locations with network interruptions. By 19 November, authorities were able to restore power in 21, as well as communication lines in 95 cities and municipalities. Some major cities, including Cebu and Puerto Princesa, as well as large areas in Southern Leyte, remained without power even 72 hours after landfall.

Authorities closed and restricted operations at 80 seaports and cancelled over 160 domestic and international flights. Some 20,102 houses were destroyed and 34,681 houses damaged across nine regions in the Typhoon's path with houses made from light materials being hit the hardest. In Loboc, Bohol, floods reached the roofs of houses and people were observed on their roofs waiting to be evacuated within hours after landfall. In Bubong municipality, Lanao del Sur, BARMM, 23 (64%) of the 36 barangays were severely affected by floods caused by river overflow, heavy rains and strong winds. In Caraga, people built makeshift shelters beside houses and in the streets as infrastructures was heavily damaged. Local governments fear lack of necessities would result in potential looting.

DAMAGES TO INFRASTRUCTURE



While experiencing reduced wind gusts, Palawan – which does not typically experience the brunt of typhoons – was also hardly hit. As assessments were yet to be conducted, partners were concerned that communities and response structures in Palawan were less experienced and might require significant humanitarian support in the coming weeks. As of 20 December, Puerto Princesa City was without power, water and lines of communication. The airport remained closed to commercial traffic.

With many people living in rural areas and the largest component of the region's economy being agriculture as well as commercial fishing, Super Typhoon Rai severely affected the communities' livelihoods and resilience.

By 19 December, Bohol, Cebu, Negros Occidental and Butuan City declared the state of calamity, though there is an expectation entire regions may be put under the state of calamity. Several subnational Departments of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) offices requested humanitarian partners for support, including the Field Office in Caraga. Compiling logistics requests from all government agencies, the Office of Civil Defense (OCD) in Manila asked the Logistics Cluster for support with transport of relief items

to affected areas. Other UN agencies with pre-existing agreements with line ministries have also received requests from the government. Assessments largely confirmed that additional capacity would be required to attend to growing humanitarian needs. Any mobilization of humanitarian partners was hampered by prevailing COVID-19 related precautionary measures and travel restrictions.

Most severely affected communities



Super Typhoon Rai hit Dinagat Island, as well as Surigao del Norte, including Siargao Island and Southern Leyte particularly hard with at least 385,374 people affected and 10,856 houses destroyed/damaged, excluding homes in Dinagat Island, where data was not yet available. According to statistics, up to 49% of people in the worst affected areas live below the poverty line.

Provinces experiencing strongest wind gusts	Total population (male/female)	People below poverty (%)	Number of people affected	Number of houses damaged/destroyed	Number of people displaced
Dinagat Island	127,152 (64,786 / 62,366)	44,122 (35%)	1,553*	not yet available	1,553
Surigao del Norte	485,088 (247,622 / 237,466)	168,244 (35%)	95,708	4,236	78,499
Southern Leyte	421,750 (215,172 / 206,578)	160,195 (38%)	288,113	6,620	12,179

Source: DROMIC data released on 19 December at 6pm

*as data remains to be assessed, assessments indicate that 116,300 people are affected in Dinagat Island.



PHILIPPINES

Tropical Cyclone Rai/Odette - Poverty rates (2015)

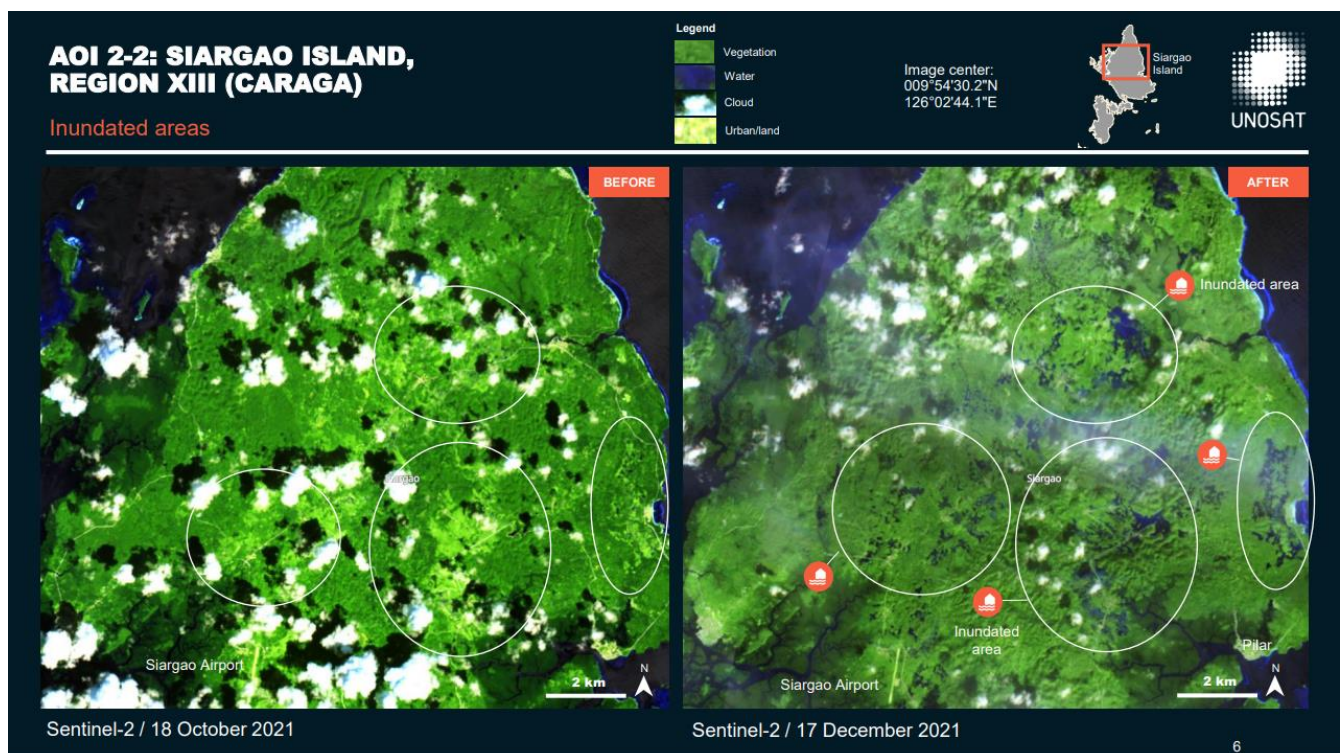
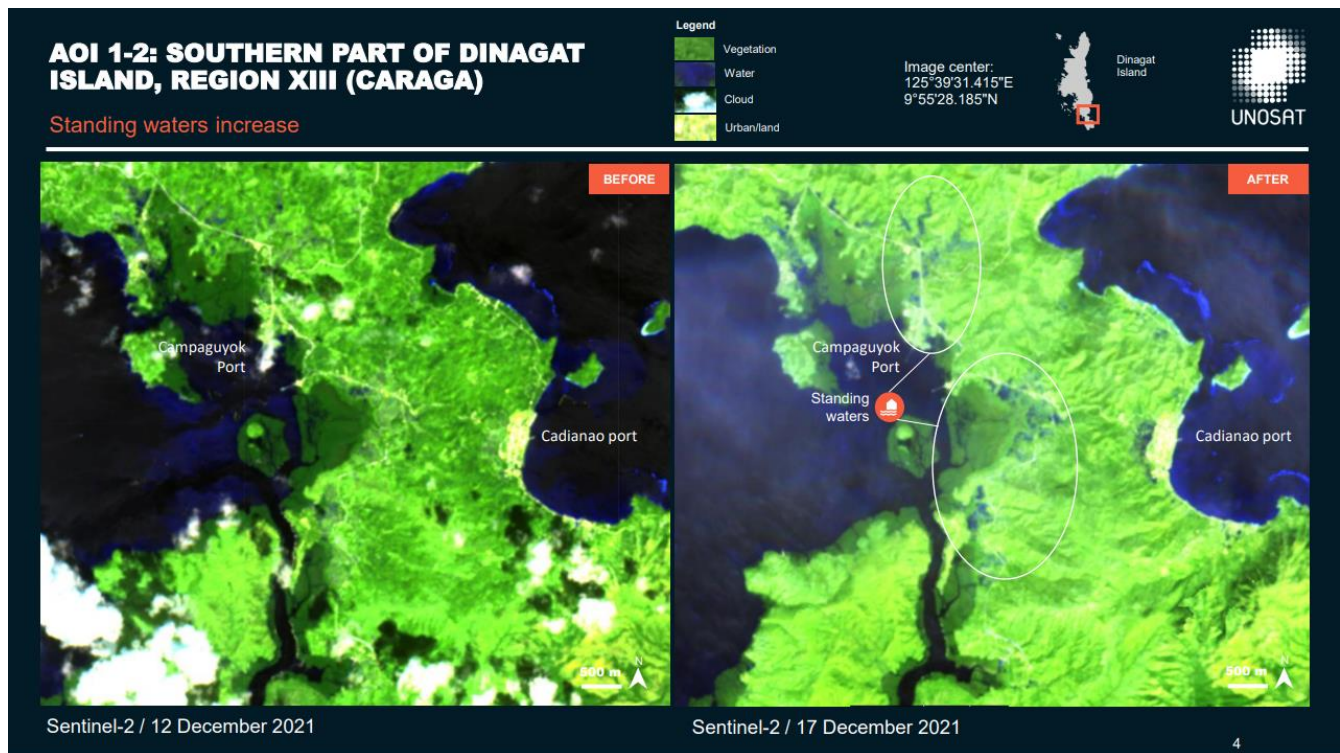
As of 19 December 2021



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.
 Creation date: 19 DEC 2021 Sources: IIOX, Poverty data: PSA (2015 Poverty Incidence) Feedback: ocha@philippines@un.org | www.unocha.org | www.reliefweb.org

Dinagat and Siargao Islands

Siargao and Dinagat Islands, where Super Typhoon made first landfall, suffered massive damage. According to UNOSAT imagery, an increase of standing water level was observed in the southern part of Dinagat Island on 17 December, when large inundated areas could also be observed in Siargao Island. Local authorities estimated that damage, especially in coastal areas, affected over 95% of households. Banks and remittance centers were damaged and resumption of operations may take weeks. The number of casualties from those areas remained unclear.



Electricity and communications remained interrupted since 16 December. There were road blockages caused by fallen trees, debris, and landslides. The full extent of the damages was unknown as the islands were inaccessible to commercial transport. Although Siargao Airport terminal sustained significant

damages, the runway was free of debris, and planes and choppers were able to carry relief items to the island.

According to initial Government estimates, 116,300 people (over 90% of the total population) have been affected in Dinagat Island, a 4th class province where people rely primarily on fishing, farming, and other agricultural and marine activities. Basic needs include food (rice supply for at least 2 months; meat supply as livestock and poultry has dwindled), water and hygiene items, as well as shelter equipment. Assessed internally displaced persons (IDPs) also requested satellite phones or access to communications to relay messages to families. To rebuild livelihoods, fishing boats and gears as well as agricultural inputs are needed.

Supply from mainland Surigao was expected to be restricted or lacking because Surigao City was equally hit hard by the Typhoon. As such, supplies for Dinagat Island may have to be sourced from Cagayan de Oro City, Davao City, and Agusan provinces.

Surigao City



As of 19 December, Surigao City remained without electricity. The airport was not operational for commercial traffic. According to initial information, it may take several months to get power back to full capacity. Some hospitals were no longer operational. The DSWD warehouse was damaged, making it difficult to store any humanitarian stockpile. Satellite images taken on 17 December showed standing waters in urban areas and affected agricultural area around Surigao City as well as standing waters near Claver municipality. The Education Cluster reported that San Roque National High School in Surigao del Sur was flooded.

Despite the minimal number of casualties, partners observed that humanitarian needs were high given the severe damage to natural resources and basic private and public infrastructures. Priority needs in Surigao

City and the province included potable water, food and shelter equipment. During assessments, authorities also highlighted the need for medicines, camp coordination and camp management and psychosocial support. Partners estimate that 90% of structures in coastal barangays in the typhoon path were destroyed.

Surigao City authorities shared intentions to establish a warehouse in Butuan, as Coast Guard vessels heading for Siargao and Dinagat Islands had limited capacity. Additional logistics, including vessels, were required to transport urgently required relief items.



Southern Leyte

Previously ravaged by Super Typhoon Haiyan (Yolanda) in 2013, the province of Southern Leyte required urgent support to provide food, shelter, non-food items, water, sanitation and hygiene, and alternative livelihoods to affected communities.

Southern Leyte province had no power or communications since 16 December. An emergency communications system was being set up so that local authorities in Maasin City could communicate with national agencies via satellite phones. Initial assessments in Maasin City estimated that 90% of structures were damaged. The port was not operational.

According to assessments in neighbouring Hilongos Municipality in Leyte province, people needed food or cash to access markets, where they resumed again. With water supplies damaged and disrupted, potable water was urgently needed. People lacked safe and accessible toilets highlighting the need of promotion of basic hygiene practices and the provision of hygiene kits. Like elsewhere, shelter equipment was critical to rebuild homes for people to return home from evacuation centres.

Priority Needs

Based on initial assessment findings, the priority clusters were shelter (including core relief items / non-food items); camp coordination and camp management; water, sanitation and hygiene; food security; health; education; psychosocial support and protection. Equally important were emergency telecommunications (ETC), logistics and coordination activities.

Immediate priority needs included food, potable water, temporary shelter, fuel, hygiene kits, medical supplies as well as protection services. Affected people expressed the preference of cash assistance to access local markets where they had been restored.



Education

The Education Cluster reported that 29,671 schools were affected by interrupting or suspending educational activities for 12 million pupils in 11 regions. With 71 schools damaged and 3,935 classrooms used as evacuation centres, it was of priority to ensure the return to school, which was largely still conducted online due to COVID-19. As of 19 December, classes in 16,666 schools remained suspended.

While some pupils might be able to return to schools running hybrid face-to-face classes after the year-end holidays on 7 January, the repair of damaged schools and classrooms was likely to take several months and hamper the education of learners.

Key immediate needs include:

- Temporary learning spaces
- Learning kits
- Psychosocial support



Emergency Shelter, Camp Coordination and Camp Management

Across affected areas, assessment and documentation of destroyed and damaged houses were ongoing. According to preliminary data, some 20,102 houses were destroyed and 34,681 houses damaged across the regions in the Typhoon's path, with houses made from light materials being hit the hardest. In Siargao and Dinagat Islands, assessments indicated that 95% of structures in coastal areas were destroyed and/or damaged.

As of 20 December, NDRRMC reported that 631,402 people remained displaced, most of them in evacuation centres. In Surigao City and Bohol, partners observed that people may stay in evacuation centres for 3 to 6 months and until their homes were rebuilt. Partners observed that people started to repair their houses. In

Surigao City, people highlighted the shortage of corrugated sheets and tarpaulins as well as labor for shelter construction and repair.

Inside evacuation centres, assessments observed overcrowded spaces, especially at night when families came back to the centre after repairing their homes and shelters during the day.

Partners highlighted that the spread of COVID-19 was more likely in the crowded shelters. To support the proper management of evacuation sites, there was a need to support COVID-19 Operational Guidelines for Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) and Protection.

Key immediate needs include:

- Mosquito nets, solar lamps, plastic tarps and corrugated sheets
- Shelter equipment
- Camp coordination and camp management



Emergency Telecommunications

Communication networks were severely affected leaving communities in different parts of the affected regions without the ability to communicate. However, networks were being re-established quickly. The private sector mobile operators were making progress in getting signal working again. In Siargao, communities asked for access to satellite phones / network to enable communication with family.

The Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) requested WFP in the role of global and local lead of the Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC) to support the reestablishment of connectivity of government offices to allow coordination and emergency response. DICT is also setting up communication centers in different areas to assist Government offices in providing information and sharing needs.

Key immediate needs include:

- Support DICT to reestablish connectivity in regional and local coordination offices and outposts. Support humanitarian clusters and workers in areas where connectivity is not available.



Food Security and Agriculture, Nutrition

As of 19 December, the Department of Agriculture (DA) reported the total amount of damage and losses in agriculture due to Typhoon Rai at US\$2.5 million (PHP127 million) with 8,600 MT of volume loss, affecting 2,582 farmers with 6,695 hectares of agricultural areas.

The effect of Typhoon Rai was expected to severely and negatively impact families dependent on farming and fishing as their primary or secondary source of livelihood their production, productive capacities and incomes will be disrupted. Affected smallholder farmers and fisherfolk's food security and nutrition would also suffer as the Typhoon damaged backyard gardens, which contribute to families' daily nutritional intake, promote crop diversification, serve as alternative sources of cash and, in some cases, articulate the role of women and children in household food production and security.

People, including farmers and fishers, were in need of food to prevent food insecurity and malnutrition and assistance in re-establishing their livelihoods. It was vital to offer proper and timely recovery and rehabilitation assistance to enhance resilience, production, and link the farmers and fishers to markets and agribusiness value chains.

Assessments highlighted emergency food among the immediate humanitarian needs in many affected areas, including in Surigao City, Siargao and Dinagat Islands, and in Bohol. Due to access issues and the disruption of the communication network which hampered transmittal of information from the ground, assessments observed limited provision of food assistance to severely affected communities. In Caraga, available food stock may last only 1 to 2 months. While local government units (LGUs) from other areas committed food augmentation, assessed IDPs without adequate food supplies admitted that the absence of food assistance in the long run may resort to conflict and negative coping mechanisms such as looting.

Key immediate needs include:

- Multi-purpose cash transfers to cover immediate food needs, support the livelihoods of affected households, and allow affected people to restart agricultural, fisheries, and other livelihood activities.
- Appropriate and timely agricultural and fisheries assistance, including seeds (rice and corn seeds for immediate planting for the December/January planting season), fertilizers, and assorted vegetable seeds, livestock/poultry and inputs for affected fisherfolk including boats, fingerlings, feeds, and fishing gears.
- Food assistance in some areas in Bohol, Surigao City, Siargao and Dinagat Islands.



Health, Sexual Reproductive Health and Mental Health and Psychosocial Services

The Department of Health reported that 128 health facilities were hit by category 4 wind gusts. While assessments were ongoing, early reports indicated that at least 9 facilities were damaged and/or destroyed. Several hospitals had patients in damaged hospital buildings.

Assessments reported common illnesses, including cough, colds, diarrhea in evacuation sites. The impact of the Typhoon would likely exacerbate potential mental health and psychosocial issues, which were of concern already due to the prolonged impact of COVID-19 on communities.

Based on estimates, 69,377 women of reproductive age were in evacuation centres across affected areas. With birthing health facilities in Surigao City and neighbouring municipalities in Surigao del Norte, Dinagat Islands, and Siargao severely, maternal health services are strained and significant disruptions can be

projected. Prepositioned Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) supplies in Caraga are limited; available stock of family planning commodities is low, and birthing/RH kits which are used to perform safe deliveries in emergency settings are not available.

While assessments are ongoing, it is increasingly clear that communication with, referrals and transport of pregnant women and girls who will be needing emergency maternal services are potential challenges, including in Cebu City, Bohol and Negros Occidental.

The National COVID-19 Vaccination Operations Centre reported that 637 LGUs cancelled vaccination activities. This included all vaccination activities in Regions MIMAROPA, VI, VII, VIII and Caraga. Any cold chain equipment damage and possible vaccine wastage remained to be assessed.

During assessments of evacuation sites, partners generally spotted signs indicating COVID-19 protocols are observed. Temperature scanning and physical distancing, however, were not consistently observed. Assessed IDPs lack masks and are unable to practice physical distancing in crowded evacuation sites.

Key immediate needs include:

- Medicines for common illnesses (pain relievers, antibiotics, cough syrups)
- Health personnel
- Medical tents
- Uninterrupted delivery of life-saving sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services and supplies
- Psychosocial intervention



Logistics

The assessment found that debris clearance and cleaning of roads and highways continued in Regions VI, VII, VII, VII, X and Caraga. As of 19 December, a number of roads remained impassable, in particular in Regions X and Caraga where flooding, erosion and soil collapse, debris and fallen trees made it difficult to clear roads for traffic. As of 19 December, the Logistics Cluster did not receive any reports of fuel shortages. There were 102 closed retail fuel outlets (86% operational) due to power outage, flooding, damage and limited availability of staff. Power outages continued across parts of the worst affected areas.

Partners informed that there were two types of water vessels available to ship goods from Surigao City to Siargao and Dinagat Islands. This included seacraft from the Philippine Navy to Siargao and a ferry boat from Montenegro Shipping Lines to Dinagat Island. It was recommended that relief items be given priority in use of ferry services. Surigao City authorities shared intentions to establish a warehouse in Butuan, as Coast Guard vessels heading for Siargao and Dinagat Islands had limited capacity.

Key immediate needs include:

- Organizations planning to move relief cargo by road to the affected area should monitor the situation of various ports from Manila to the Visayas and Mindanao Regions and coordinate with DOTr for priority access to seaports as long queue of vehicles and rolling cargo were stranded during Typhoon Rai.
- Transport companies are operational and moving to the affected regions.

- Clearing of debris along national roads for easier access of humanitarian relief cargo
- Priority access to seaport for all humanitarian relief cargo
- Restoration of power



Protection, including Child Protection and Gender-Based Violence

Evacuated and displaced people were concerned of their safety as they took refuge in crowded evacuation centres and makeshift homes. In areas around Surigao City, partners reported that people built makeshift shelters along roadsides as infrastructure was heavily damaged. Crowded spaces posed high protection risk and violence especially for the estimated 70,000 women of reproductive age, children, particularly girls, people with disabilities and other vulnerable groups, not least due to lack of toilets and inadequate to no lighting.

Based on estimates, at least 650,882 children with 338,459 boys and 312,423 girls were affected by Super Typhoon Rai (DSWD DROMIC, 20 Dec). Children remain among the most vulnerable and at-risk population in the Typhoon response. Children experience increased protection risks which include: separation from family/caregivers, additional risks and vulnerabilities to child abuse and exploitation (including sexual abuse and exploitation), negative coping strategies of families/caregivers, and limited and/or threatened continued access to child protection services and support (i.e. psycho-social support services).

While there were no reported cases of gender-based violence (GBV) yet in the regions affected, protection experts reiterated that GBV was a pre-existing condition and often cases increased in the context of disasters or emergencies, given the disruptions in Health, Social Protection and Safety Services. Data from the National Demographic and Health Survey in 2017 showed a prevalence of 38% in Caraga, 13% in Region VI, 19% in Region VII, 25% in Region VIII, and 4% in ARMM of ever-married women age 15-49 who had ever experienced physical, sexual, or emotional violence committed by any husband/partner.

Assessments found that tension may arise between IDPs in evacuation centres and host families due to lack of water supply and appropriate food distribution for children and pregnant and lactating women (PLWs).

Key immediate needs include:

- Protection protocols for evacuation centres and relevant areas
- Psychosocial support, including to children
- Establishment of systemic distribution measures for IDPs living outside of evacuation centres
- Access of women and girls to clinical management of rape
- Monitoring of missing or separated/unaccompanied children that are being reported
- Updating, coordination, and dissemination of referral pathways on abuse and exploitation in evacuation centres and relevant areas
- Continuity of child protection services
- Dissemination Child Protection Risk Communication and Community Engagement materials (i.e. Preventing Family Separation, Referral Pathways, Protection against Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) messaging)



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Water supply interruptions were reported in several areas due to damages incurred in water systems and power outages, forcing the population to fetch water from hand pumps and wells. Reported landslides which buried some pipes and reservoirs further contributed to the water disruptions. On 18 December, partners observed people lining up for water in Surigao City reporting that water supplies would become scarce within 2 days. In Bonifacio Barangay, 164 families stayed in one evacuation centre with shared toilets for men and women. Partners observed that family homes with functioning toilets allowed others to use them temporarily.

Health authorities were encouraging families to boil their drinking water if sourced from level I and II systems, or to buy water from refilling stations. Government agencies and humanitarian partners started delivering water to evacuation sites for domestic purposes.

Sanitation facilities in assessed evacuation sites were insufficient. Affected families were using open spaces. People in Siargao Island, in particular, urgently required hygiene kits as local supplies were reportedly not available.

Key immediate needs include:

- Drinking water
- Water kits and hygiene kits
- Water tanks and mobile water filtration machines
- Construction materials for comfort rooms in evacuation centres
- Portable comfort rooms
- Generator sets for water pressure



Photo: UNICEF



Early Recovery and Livelihoods

With many affected families dependent on farming and fishing as their primary or secondary source of income, Super Typhoon Rai severely affected the communities' livelihoods and resilience.

The Department of Agriculture reported agriculture damage and losses in Regions V, VI and Caraga amounting to US\$3.75 million (PhP176.4 million), affecting 3 664 farmers, with volume of production loss at 10,229 metric tons (MT) and 10,830 hectares of agricultural areas. Affected commodities include rice, corn, high-value crops, and fisheries. According to preliminary information, rice crops are still in vegetative stage and have likelihood for recovery.

After Super Typhoon Rai passed, local authorities and affected communities started to clear debris along the roads and their private lots. Restoration of electric power is expected to take more time, in some areas up to several months, because specialized personnel and equipment is needed to repair the damaged utility poles.

While conducting rapid assessments, partners observed that families started rebuilding and repairing homes, often using salvaged materials. There is a need for early recovery interventions on livelihood, particularly for families with destroyed and damaged houses who are incurring debts to start their own repair efforts. Unmet needs for livelihood might exacerbate poverty and trigger more needs.

Responses should be carried out with a strong development and climate change adaptation component as most issues are pre-existing and will most likely occur again with the next natural calamity.

Key immediate needs include:

- Debris clearance
- Cash assistance to affected farmers and fishers
- Fishing boats and gears
- Alternative livelihood opportunities



Coordination and Community Engagement

The humanitarian response in the Philippines is led and coordinated by the Government through the NDRRMC and related emergency response mechanisms. As partners conducted rapid assessments, the Government attended to the most pressing needs of those affected, including debris clearing to enable access and assistance delivery like food assistance; water distribution; and restoration of power and telecoms. Regional government agencies or the Regional Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Councils (RDRRMCs) and LGUs were providing immediate assistance to the people affected, with the support of OCD and NDRRMC. For Caraga Region, the Government established an EOC in Butuan City and a logistics hub in Surigao City.

On 17 December, the UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator extended the HCT's coordinated support to augment the government's relief efforts, which was accepted on 19 December. On behalf of the HCT, OCHA was coordinating with OCD and regional authorities. During assessments, partners observed the need to further strengthen coordination, in particular in the most affected areas, to ensure systematic mapping of needs, response and gaps.

Humanitarian partners are working to ensure that disaster response is inclusive and adapted to climate trends and that life-saving humanitarian action contributes to the overall resilience of local communities and their ability to build back better. To do so, OCHA plays a strategic role in advancing the principle that disaster-affected people should be at the centre of humanitarian response.

Key immediate needs include:

- Increased coordination among government agencies and humanitarian partners to ensure equitable access to humanitarian aid and services
- Communication
- Resource mobilization
- Advocacy messages to raise awareness and promote accountability
- Community engagement, including provision of information, feedback mechanisms, accountability to affected populations
- Strengthen operational coordination in the most affected areas

Operational Constraints

Damages and needs in remote and difficult to reach areas were not fully captured yet as any contact with authorities and affected communities was constrained by a combination of access, COVID-19 movement restrictions and precautionary measures.

Access

Affected areas were considered safe. There were no specific security concerns at the time assessments were conducted.

Most assessed areas could be reached through the normal road network. In a few areas having difficulty with road access, sea access was available. Some roads were temporarily cut off due to landslides, downed power lines and trees. Siargao and Dinagat Islands remained inaccessible to commercial traffic.

The Department of Public Works and Highways continued to clear blocked roads and landslides and started to repair damaged roads and bridges across affected areas. Debris clearance was incomplete particularly in coastal municipalities, like in Malimono, Surigao del Norte. On 18 December, the road from Butuan to Surigao City was reopened for light vehicles.

Within 72 hours after landfall, businesses and government services in some areas were slowly resuming, including electricity and telecommunications. In the municipalities and barangays visited by the assessment teams, electricity and telecommunications, however, had not yet been fully restored. Municipal and barangay

officials informed that power restoration may take several months. In Surigao City, the electric company indicated that full restoration may take up to six months.

Transmission of information continued to be affected by the unstable internet connection and intermittent power supply.

COVID-19

The nation-wide Alert Level 2 regarding the COVID-19 restrictions remained in place until the end of December. While LGUs had different travel restrictions in place, the implementation of humanitarian activities in affected areas was possible. Entry in the Philippines remains restrictive and requires mandatory quarantine.

To facilitate and expedite travel, humanitarian partners coordinated with the authorities to temporarily lift COVID-19 testing requirements on some islands for fully vaccinated humanitarian workers.

The negative economic impact of the pandemic likely reduced the resiliency of people and their ability to bounce back from losses to private properties and livelihoods.

About 45% of the population was fully vaccinated as of early December. Since September, the Philippines has seen a sharp decrease in COVID-19 cases with 826 new cases reported on 13 December compared to over 140,000 on 13 September. The Omicron variant was detected in the Philippines around the same time as Typhoon Rai arrived. In the coming months, the continued spread of COVID-19 would be an additional aggravating factor in the mobilization of the typhoon response.

Operational Capacity

Based on the HCT's Who's doing what, where (3W) tool and data collected ahead of Super Typhoon Rai's landfall, at least 10 UN agencies, 20 NGOs and 20 local NGOs, as well as the Philippine Red Cross and the PDRF private sector members have presence in affected areas, many focusing on long-term projects. Thanks to staff and local partners in affected areas at disaster onset, HCT and MHT partners were able to conduct rapid assessments and assist with immediately response activities.

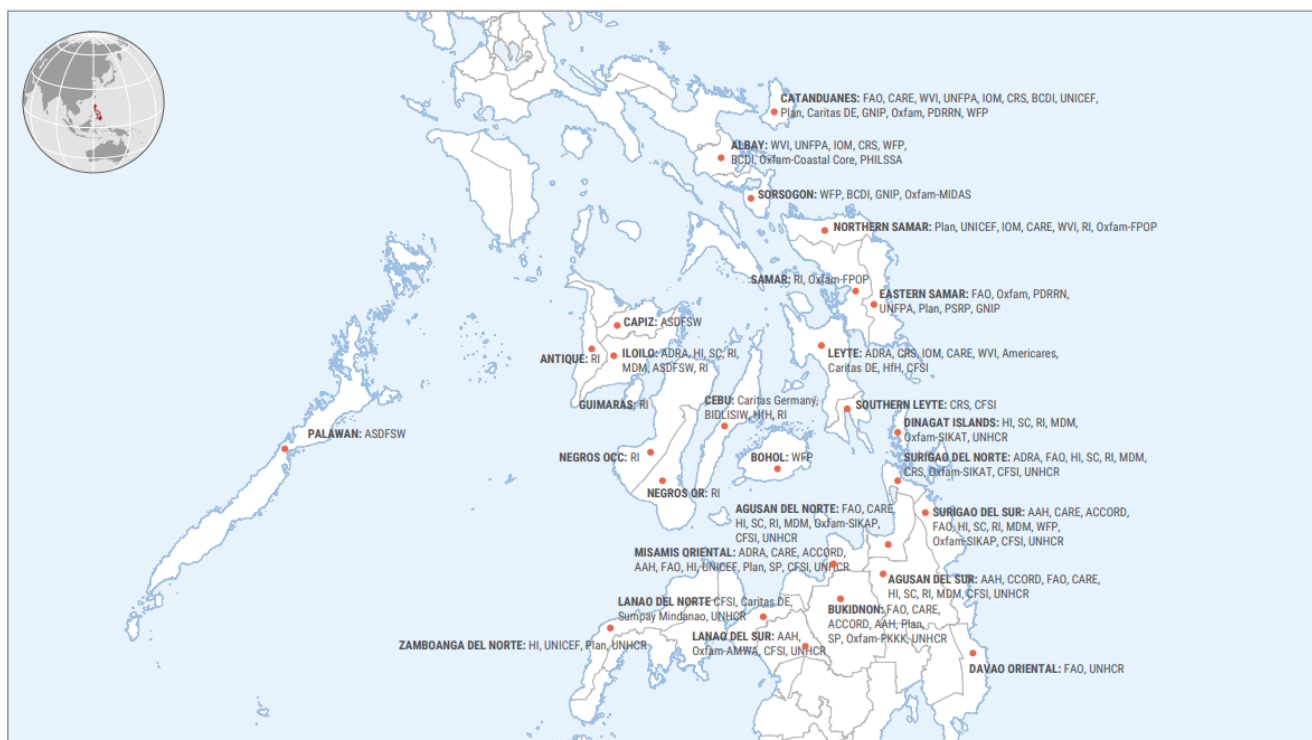
As many areas are not usually disaster prone, humanitarian capacity would need to be strengthened. HCT and MHT members stand ready to scale up operations and augment the government's response.



PHILIPPINES

Typhoon Rai (Odette) Operational Presence (Preparedness)

As of 19 Dec 2021



Information Gaps

To further validate information gaps, MHT and ICCG representatives continued to conduct joint rapid assessments in and around across affected areas, including in Surigao del Norte, Southern Leyte, Bohol, Cebu, Negros Oriental and Palawan. UNDP, in coordination with authorities and partners, was conducting a Rapid Damage Assessment and Needs Analysis (RDNA) in the Caraga region, with focus on Butuan City.

Limited data was available on the worst hit areas of Siargao and Dinagat Islands, which remained inaccessible to commercial traffic. Impact data on Palawan was equally incomplete, not least due to the limited presence of humanitarian partners on the ground.