



**U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
BUREAU FOR DEMOCRACY, CONFLICT, AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE (DCHA)
OFFICE OF U.S. FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (OFDA)**

Philippines – Storms and Flooding

Fact Sheet #1, Fiscal Year (FY) 2005

December 13, 2004

BACKGROUND

- Since mid-November 2004, flooding and landslides caused by storms, including Typhoons Muifa and Nanmadol and two tropical depressions, have killed nearly 1,000 persons and affected approximately 3 million others, mainly on the northern island of Luzon. According to the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the most affected areas include Infanta, General Nakar, and Real in Quezon Province, Dingalan and Baler in Aurora Province, and Gabaldon in Nueva Ecija Province. Deforestation of uplands in the affected areas was reportedly a major contributor to the severity of the disaster.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE	SOURCE
Total Affected Population	3, 018, 000 National Disaster Coordination Council
Dead	939 December 9, 2004
Injured	752
Missing	837
Houses Destroyed	32,256
Houses Damaged	94,477

Total FY 2005 USAID/OFDA Assistance to the Philippines.....\$243,840

CURRENT SITUATION

- The National Disaster Coordination Council (NDCC) announced at its December 5 coordination meeting in Manila that the emergency relief phase will continue as necessary until December 15, with the expectation that road access, electricity, communications, and basic community support services will be established by this date.

Assessments

- On December 5, Ambassador Francis J. Ricciardone, with USAID/Philippines, USAID/OFDA, and U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) staff, accompanied representatives from the Philippine National Red Cross (PNRC) and other international donors to assess the affected areas of the island of Luzon. Current emergency needs noted by the team include potable water, sanitation and health services. The team also observed extensive damage to infrastructure, including bridges, roads, and homes.
- On December 9, OCHA reported that according to initial inter-agency assessments of Infanta and General Nakar, Quezon Province, roads remain impassable, and shortages of potable water, sanitation, shelter materials and food persist.
- On December 11, USAID/Philippines and USAID/OFDA staff conducted an assessment of Infanta in Quezon Province. According to relief workers in the area, 43,000 persons of a total population of 59,000 were severely affected. In addition, the electric grid is inoperable and potable water is being supplied by airlift.
- The International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) reports that the storms damaged nearly 80 percent of the infrastructure in Infanta, Real, and General Nakar in Quezon province.

Access

- Access to the most affected areas in Quezon, Aurora, and Nueva Ecija provinces is only possible by sea or air. OCHA cites estimates of up to two weeks to restore road access to Infanta, General Nakar, and Real in Quezon Province. The road to Real is blocked due to five collapsed bridges.

Health and Water/Sanitation

- On December 6, OCHA reported that according to initial assessments, water and sanitation services are urgently needed in affected areas, and many water sources are blocked by debris.
- The U.N. World Health Organization (WHO) has expressed concern about possible malaria outbreaks in the coming six to eight weeks. In addition, WHO is working with the Philippines Ministry of Health to combat diarrheal diseases and other possible health consequences.
- On December 8, the Government of the Republic of the Philippines (GRP) Health Secretary stated that many local clinics were damaged, and the hospital in Infanta was completely destroyed.

USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

- On December 1, Chargé D’Affaires Joseph Mussomeli declared a disaster to meet the immediate and most pressing needs of those affected by the landslides and flooding. In response, USAID/OFDA provided \$200,000 to the PNRG, through USAID/Philippines, for procurement and distribution of emergency relief commodities including blankets, shelter materials, and other essential items.
- On December 4, the USAID/OFDA Senior Regional Advisor for Asia arrived in the Philippines to assist in the management and coordination of USG relief efforts. A USAID/OFDA Military Liaison Officer arrived in the Philippines on December 7 and is working with U.S. military counterparts at the National Disaster Coordination Center in Manila.
- On December 5, USAID/OFDA assisted with recovery efforts by responding to a request from the PNRG for 500 body bags at a total cost of \$15,111, including transport. On December 6, 80 rolls of plastic sheeting were consigned to the PNRG. This plastic sheeting will provide temporary shelter to more than 800 families and assist these families in repairs upon return to their homes. The value of the plastic sheeting, including transportation, is \$28,729.
- DOD has deployed over 800 personnel, 11 helicopters, and the USS Ft. McHenry (LSD-43) to the Philippines to assist in relief operations. The deployment is composed of Marines and Sailors from the third Marine Expeditionary Force (Okinawa), 33 members of the U.S. Air Force Search and Rescue Squadron in Okinawa, a U.S. Army Civil Affairs/Special Forces Team, and the USS Ft McHenry (from Sasebo, Japan). In addition, a U.S. Army Combat Life Saver team is treating patients at the casualty collection point in Manila. DOD helicopters are currently assisting the GRP in their humanitarian relief efforts by transporting emergency relief supplies and personnel to affected regions in Luzon and Aurora provinces.

U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO THE PHILIPPINES

<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE¹			
Philippine Red Cross	Procurement and distribution of emergency relief commodities	Affected provinces	\$200,000
Philippine Red Cross	USAID/OFDA airlift of 500 body bags	Affected provinces	\$15,111
Philippine Red Cross	USAID/OFDA airlift of 80 rolls of plastic sheeting	Affected provinces	\$28,729
TOTAL USAID/OFDA.....			\$243,840
DOD ASSISTANCE			
DOD	Deployment of personnel and equipment	Affected provinces	\$1,000,000
TOTAL DOD			\$1,000,000
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO THE PHILIPPINES IN FY 2005			\$243,840
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO THE PHILIPPINES IN FY 2005.....			\$1,243,840

¹ USAID/OFDA funding represents committed and/or obligated amount as of December 13, 2004.

PUBLIC DONATION INFORMATION

- The most effective way people can assist relief efforts is by making cash contributions to humanitarian organizations that are conducting relief operations. Information on organizations responding to the humanitarian situation in the Philippines may be available at www.reliefweb.org.
- USAID encourages cash donations because they: allow aid professionals to procure the exact items needed (often in the affected region); reduce the burden on scarce resources (such as transportation routes, staff time, warehouse space, etc); can be transferred very quickly and without transportation costs; support the economy of the disaster-stricken region; ensure culturally, dietary, and environmentally appropriate assistance.
- More information on making donations and volunteering can be found at:
 - USAID: www.usaid.gov – Keyword: Donations
 - The Center for International Disaster Information: www.cidi.org or (703) 276-1914
 - InterAction: www.interaction.org – “Guide to Appropriate Giving”
- Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at www.reliefweb.org.