



**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 #2, Fiscal Year (FY) 2005

December 17, 2004

*Note: This report updates the last fact sheet dated December 13, 2004.*

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE		SOURCE
<b>Total Affected Population</b>	3.6 million	National Disaster Coordination Council
<b>Dead</b>	1,060	December 14, 2004
<b>Injured</b>	1,023	
<b>Missing</b>	566	
<b>Houses Destroyed</b>	38,358	
<b>Displaced population</b>	880,000	
<b>Houses Damaged</b>	133,161	

**Total FY 2005 USAID/OFDA Assistance to the Philippines.....\$493,840**  
**Total FY 2005 U.S. Government (USG) Humanitarian Assistance to the Philippines.....\$4,493,840**

**CURRENT SITUATION**

*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. 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. Deforestation of uplands in the affected areas was reportedly a major contributor to the severity of the disaster.

*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. 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.

*Access*

- Road access is gradually being restored to OCHA, Infanta, Real, and General Nakar. However, access problems are impeding assessments of remote areas and the delivery of relief supplies.
- The Government of the Republic of the Philippines (GRP) expects to complete rehabilitation of the Agos River bridge, which links General Naka and Infanta, by the end of December.

*Health and Water/Sanitation*

- According to the initial results of a Rapid Environmental Assessment funded by USAID/OFDA through an agreement with CARE, debris from landslides and river erosion caused by the storms has blocked one of the water intake tunnels for a dam supplying water to Manila.
- The U.N. World Health Organization (WHO) has expressed concern about possible malaria outbreaks in the coming six to eight weeks. WHO is planning malaria preparedness and outbreak control activities targeting 200,000 persons. WHO is providing technical assistance and support to the Philippine Department of Health to monitor and respond as required to health needs in the region with a focus on diarrhea and respiratory diseases and other potential health priorities.
- The GRP is distributing chlorine and conducting water disinfection campaigns in Infanta.

- The GRP reported on December 15 that according to an assessment of evacuation centers in Infanta, Real, and General Nakar, there have been only a few cases of gastroenteritis and no pneumonia or measles reported to date.

*Reconstruction*

- On December 15, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo directed disaster officials to begin the construction of core shelters immediately after mud and debris has been removed from affected areas.
- Electricity is projected to be available in all major areas by December 30.

**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 PNRC, through USAID/Philippines, for procurement and distribution of emergency relief commodities including blankets, shelter materials, and other essential items.
- Following initial assessments, USAID/OFDA provided \$75,000 to Save the Children/Philippines for emergency relief commodities for more than 6,500 families in 25 evacuation centers and to initiate emergency rehabilitation in areas not covered by other organizations. In addition, USAID/OFDA provided \$25,000 to WHO to support a program for disease surveillance and prevention particularly in the central and southern parts of the Bicol Region. USAID/OFDA provided \$150,000 to World Vision for a 3-month food and cash for work program to assist 3,000 families in Infanta. The program will help with the clearing of roads, public facilities, canals and drainage systems and other priority projects.
- From December 4 - 16, the USAID/OFDA Senior Regional Advisor for Asia was in the Philippines to assist in the management and coordination of USG relief efforts. A USAID/OFDA Military Liaison Officer has been in the Philippines since December 7 to work with U.S. military counterparts based at the National Disaster Coordination Center in Manila.
- On December 5, USAID/OFDA assisted with recovery efforts by responding to a request from the PNRC 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 PNRC. 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 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. As of December 16, DOD personnel had delivered more than 225 metric tons of emergency relief supplies to the affected areas.

**U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO THE PHILIPPINES**

<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
<b>USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE<sup>1</sup></b>			
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
World Vision	Food for work and cash for work (community flood rehabilitation projects)	Infanta town	\$150,000
Save the Children – Philippines	Rehabilitation, provision of water treatment and shelter materials	Camarines Norte, Camarines Sur, and Catanduanes	\$75,000
WHO	Disease surveillance and prevention	Affected provinces	\$25,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA.....</b>			<b>\$493,840</b>
<b>DOD ASSISTANCE</b>			
DOD	Deployment of personnel and equipment	Affected provinces	\$4,000,000
<b>TOTAL DOD .....</b>			<b>\$4,000,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO THE PHILIPPINES IN FY 2005 .....</b>			<b>\$493,840</b>
<b>TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO THE PHILIPPINES IN FY 2005.....</b>			<b>\$4,493,840</b>

<sup>1</sup> USAID/OFDA funding represents committed and/or obligated amount as of December 17, 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](http://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](http://www.usaid.gov) – Keyword: Donations
  - The Center for International Disaster Information: [www.cidi.org](http://www.cidi.org) or (703) 276-1914
  - InterAction: [www.interaction.org](http://www.interaction.org) – “Guide to Appropriate Giving”
- Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at [www.reliefweb.org](http://www.reliefweb.org).