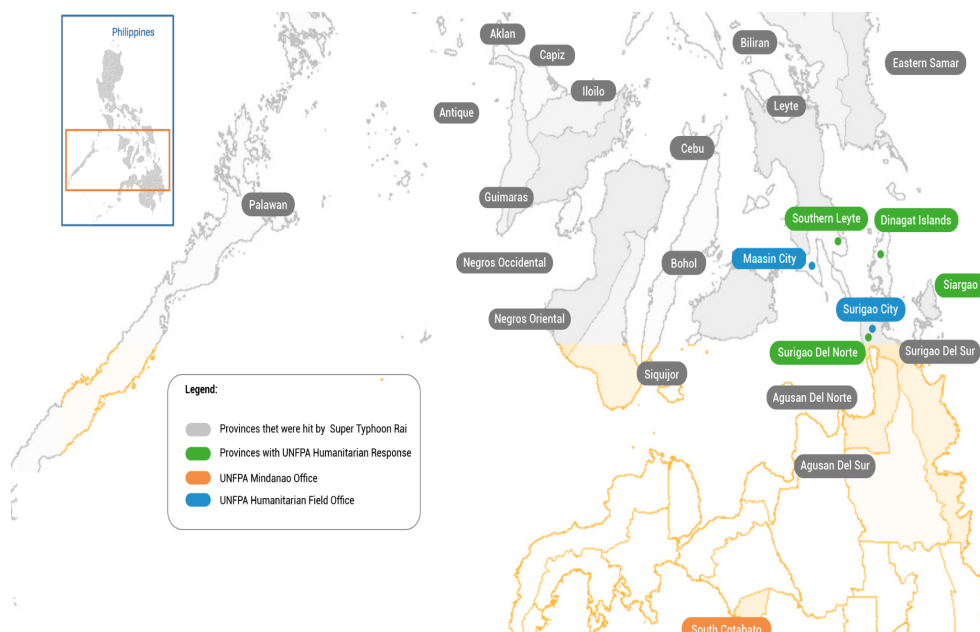


Map of UNFPA's Areas of Intervention for Typhoon Odette (Rai) Response



Summary Figures



Highlights

- On May 21, 2022 a delegation from USAID led by the Assistant to the Administrator, Sarah Charles came to Siargao Island in Surigao del Norte and visited UNFPA's Super Typhoon Odette Response activities. USAID has committed to providing additional \$8 million (Php 400 million) in assistance, including support to reproductive health and protection activities for survivors of Odette.
- Repair of health care facilities by the government in affected areas is on-going, but is proving to be challenging logistically due to the scope and extent of the damage. Support for rehabilitation of health infrastructure is needed to ensure that women and girls have access to functioning birthing units.
- In the latest Dengue Disease Surveillance Update shared by the Caraga Center for Health and Development (January 1 - May 14, 2022) Surigao del Norte and the Province of Dinagat Islands are reporting an increasing trend in the number of dengue cases, compared to the same time last year.¹ This adds risk to an already vulnerable population in the affected areas.
- Human Resources for Health continue to be overstretched due to competing priorities such as the provision of routine and essential health care, vaccinations, managing chronic and acute diseases and controlling the spread of COVID-19; supporting skilled providers with augmentation of staff and supplies remains a top priority.

Situation Overview

It has been five months since Super Typhoon Rai (local name Odette) ravaged the Philippines on December 16 2021, and its devastation is still apparent in the country's 11 regions with Surigao del Norte, Dinagat Island, Southern Leyte, Bohol and Cebu being the most affected. Strong winds and torrential rain severely affected over 11 million people, damaging over 2 million homes, and initially displacing over 600,000 individuals. The storm hit weeks before the January surge in COVID-19 cases, amplifying the needs on the ground and complicating response efforts of humanitarian actors.²

Today, UNFPA continues to respond to the needs of the most vulnerable, including women and adolescent girls in typhoon-affected areas, ensuring access to sexual and reproductive health (SRH) care and information, and protection from gender-based violence (GBV) and sexual exploitation and abuse.

In the latest Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) situation report, a total of 6,825 people are still displaced and more than 4,400 of them are still staying in evacuation centers while the rest are home-based IDPs.³ In the last IDP Protection Assessment Report, electricity remains unavailable in some parts of Surigao Del Norte and Dinagat Island province. In Siargao Island, the majority still has no access to electricity. People need to pay P20- P60 (\$0.40 - \$1.14) for charging cell phones and laptops. While electricity has been partially restored in most areas, this situation especially in isolated island barangays, may pose safety and security risks, especially to women and children, to the sick and the elderly, especially at night.⁴

OCHA is preparing a month-long handover strategy to be implemented in June 2022, to ensure the coordination of a continued response beyond the lifespan of the Humanitarian Needs and Priorities (HNP) plan for the response which ends on June 30, 2022. Given the continuation of services needed in the affected areas, mapping of coordination capacity and consultations with humanitarian agencies and local NGOs who are continuing operations is underway.

The national and local elections in typhoon-affected areas on May 9, 2022 were largely peaceful. In the pre-election period, most of the humanitarian activities delivered by the government were on hold due to the election ban, but they have now resumed. UNFPA and other UN agencies continued the provision of services throughout, and as was possible given travel restrictions.

Many municipalities in the affected areas have elected new government representatives which may affect the continuity and sustainability of the response interventions established to date. UNFPA trained regional-level GBV service providers may be reassigned to other departments when elected officials assume their roles by June 30. There is a need for sensitization and advocacy efforts to ensure that GBV concerns are prioritized.

Although the government has started to activate funds to start repair and reconstruction for damaged health facilities, many women and girls access their maternal health needs only through temporary health facilities, or mobile health teams provided by UNFPA and other partner agencies. For many, the distance to a functioning facility is very far from home.



UNFPA field team in Southern Leyte with delegates from USAID sit in a focus group discussion with lactating mothers in Pilar, Siargao during an ongoing Reproductive Health Medical Mission in May 21, 2022. Photo by Denvie Balido/UNFPA

Humanitarian Needs

- More than 6,825 people remain displaced after Super Typhoon Odette
- 6300 people are displaced and living with friends and relatives
- 4400 people are displaced and continue to live inside evacuation centers
- Only 45.6 % of funding requirements have been met across all humanitarian sectors to respond fully to the disaster
- Communities in geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas (GIDA) require assistance for access to basic services, including functioning facilities for maternity services
- Survivors of GBV require improved access to Women and Children's Protection Units where they can easily receive quality support for medical, legal, and psychological care.
- Livelihoods for women are needed to ensure economic empowerment and independence



Joy, 27 with her 1-month-old Baby Richard of San Jose, Province of Dinagat Islands received a cash voucher assistance which contains Php2,000 (\$38) worth of supplies for her newborn baby and postnatal needs. Photo by Denvie Balidoy/UNFPA

To date, UNFPA has distributed:

Emergency kits to provide clean delivery supplies for **1800 births**

Midwifery packs to equip **35 midwives** providing outreach in the community

Primary care level equipment for **315 deliveries**

Referral level medications and equipment for **225 cesarean deliveries** and **90 obstetric emergencies**

Medications and supplies to respond to sexual violence for **250 women** and **50 children** through clinical management of rape

UNFPA Response

Sexual Reproductive Health

- Continued support for alternative service delivery models is ongoing at Emergency Maternity Tent Facilities (EMTF), reproductive health medical missions (RHMM), and to clinical staff of the Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) stationed in Women and Child Protection Units (WCPU).
- Facilities supported by UNFPA reported **36** safe deliveries by skilled providers in the month of May.
- RHMMs reached an additional **1,810** women and girls with reproductive health services and information in Caraga and Southern Leyte.
- 602** additional cash for health payments were distributed through implementing partners Plan International and World Vision to women and adolescent girls attending postpartum care.
- Provided **Reproductive Health Kit 12** for blood transfusion to support the Comprehensive Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Care (CEmONC) capacity for Salvacion Oppus Yñiguez Memorial Provincial Hospital (SOYMPH) and Caraga Regional Hospital (CRH).
- As part of our integrated programming approach, UNFPA collaborated with UNICEF, integrating nutrition consultations for children during GBV information sessions for women and girls.
- UNFPA in collaboration with Plan International, and the Provincial Health Service Office (PHSO) conducted activities on Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) on May 3-5 in Baybay City for survivors of Tropical Storm Agaton and the Baybay town mudslide.
- UNFPA collaborated with UNICEF, WFP and IOM to provide integration of information on GBV, MHPSS, throughout health activities, including maternal, child and young child nutrition (MIYCN).
- Provision of vouchers to 472 pregnant and lactating women was completed in the Municipalities of Basilisa, Libjo, Dinagat, and San Jose in the Province of Dinagat Islands by UNFPA and World Vision Development Foundation (WVDF). Women received food, menstrual hygiene supplies, infant clothing and soap amongst other items necessary for self-care.



1,880

safe deliveries supported



1,126

Family Planning Consultations



1

Women's Health on Wheels Deployed

Sexual Reproductive Health Coordination

- UNFPA continues to co-lead SRH coordination meetings both in Southern Leyte and Caraga. In May, stakeholders met to collaborate and plan in the MHPSS subcluster and Reproductive Health Coordinating Team (RHCT) subcluster in Southern Leyte, and in the Provincial Health Office in Caraga.
- Work continues in the planning for BEmONC training for health care providers; this will ensure midwives and medical officers have the capacity to address obstetric emergencies in their respective facilities. In addition, discussions are underway to work with government entities in restoring birthing facilities "License to operate"
- Coordination efforts amongst SRH partners continue to support the transition of the RHCT in affected Provinces to the Provincial Implementation Team (response to recovery modality).

Gender Based Violence

- UNFPA, UNICEF and UNHCR collaborated on two trainings** on *Protection, GBV and Child Protection (CP)* for 26 Violence against Women and Children (VAWC) Desk Officers and Barangay Council for the Protection of Children (BCPC) members in Southern Leyte (May 19 and 20, 2022). Implementing partners of the UN Agencies - WEAVERS, Plan International, and, ACCORD facilitated the training
- 40 facilitators** from 2 Women-Friendly Spaces (WFS) in Maasin and Bontoc were deployed by WEAVERS, in their respective communities to conduct information sessions and other activities in a Cash-for-Work

scheme. WFS facilitators in Bontoc conducted 5 activities reaching **93 participants**, and in Maasin, conducted one session with 305 participants

- An additional **1190** solar lamps and radios were distributed as a way to reduce the risk of sexual and gender-based violence in Southern Leyte.
- UNFPA supported 5 multidisciplinary teams (psychologist, legal services, medical provider and case manager) which provided psychological evaluation and counseling to GBV survivors in the Provinces of Dinagat Islands and Surigao del Norte.
- UNFPA increased focus on the inclusion of men and boys in GBV information and sensitization sessions, reaching **6,440** in May.



13,297

of women and girls reached by life-saving messages on GBV info sessions in WFS



1,500

women provided with cash for protection assistance



7

Women friendly space (WFS) tents established

Gender Based Violence Coordination

- UNFPA continues to co-lead the GBV Sub-Cluster at the national level and in the typhoon-affected areas. In both Caraga and Southern Leyte, Terms of References were reviewed in the month of May: one for presentation to the Provincial Council for Anti-Trafficking and Violence Against Women and Children (PCAT-VAWC) (and approved), and one for the GBV Sub Cluster in Southern Leyte.
- In Southern Leyte GBV partners met to discuss the results of the Training Needs Assessment of GBV-Child Protection (CP) Service Providers and the upcoming capacity development interventions to address gaps in provider ability.
- Existing policies and guidelines of the Child and Youth Crisis Center (CYCC) were reviewed.
- Humanitarian actors' continued presence is being mapped by the GBV Sub Cluster in Southern Leyte and Caraga for continued coordination of GBV activities beyond June 2022. The goal is to ensure institutionalization of the Protection Cluster within the local structures and to support and mainstream GBV prevention and response. ,



Women Friendly Spaces facilitators during a catch-up session in the island municipality of Limasawa in Southern Leyte.

Photo by Kai Jimenez/UNFPA

Information Management

- Planning is underway between UNFPA and UNOCHA for a collaborative series of trainings on information management, including tools and methods in the analysis of data and data protection in gender-based violence cases to ensure the *do no harm* policy. These will be conducted in June 2022 for the provincial and municipal government units of the Provinces of Dinagat Islands and Surigao del Norte.
- UNFPA continues its coordination with other humanitarian actors in Caraga and Southern Leyte in Information Management working group meetings. The use of Common Operational Datasets (CODs) for pre-disaster assessments and when applicable; sharing of data within clusters and among related focus areas; and providing support to each other on IM issues/concerns and challenges were discussed.

UNFPA is committed to ensuring the continuity of lifesaving SRH and GBV-related services now that the response is transitioning into early recovery. To date, 28% of the total funding (\$3.4 million) required for the response has been committed.

A total of \$77 million has been mobilized by the international community to date to support Typhoon Odette relief operations – or 45.8% of total funding requirements under the revised Humanitarian Needs and Priorities (HNP) plan – which resulted in humanitarian agencies implementing over 11,000 multi-sectoral interventions to support the government's response.



\$12 M required



28% funded

Appreciation to the **Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF)**, the **Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT)**, and the **UNFPA Emergency Fund** for their support to the humanitarian response for Super Typhoon Odette. UNFPA is excited to begin a new partnership with **USAID** in the near future to continue the support for protection and sexual and reproductive health and rights activities in the humanitarian setting.

Communications & Media Coverage

Humanitarian communications continuously build its internal and external capacities to advance the reach of typhoon Odette response and recovery efforts from the ground to the general public, donors and global audience.

Internally, the humanitarian teams led by the communications unit are developing IEC materials like flipcharts, stickers and informational tarpaulins to increase awareness and strengthen the advocacy on thematic issues including PSEA, GBV and SRH.

Social media platforms are still being utilized to share humanitarian stories and activities to appeal to current and potential donors. Through the Individual Giving Program, we have generated around \$14,000 from both our UNFPA donation page and our partner online platforms to fund essential and life-saving services for women and girls in typhoon-affected areas and support for SRH and GBV risk mitigation interventions.

Media coverage / Social Media Feature

- Hope on Wheels is featured as one of the contender in the recent Asia Pacific Regional Meeting Innovation Award: <https://twitter.com/leilajou/status/1523646860476354561>
- Humanitarian Workshop: <https://twitter.com/UNFPAPH/status/1526455175766228992>
- Press Release featuring the community health worker in Southern Leyte: <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2022/05/18/imparting-humanity-to-our-children/>
- USAID Philippines will partner with UNFPA Philippines to support for GBV and SRH services in areas affected by ST Odette: https://twitter.com/usaaid_manila/status/1528016793280737280
- Australia in the Philippines visit in Siargao <https://www.facebook.com/AustralianEmbassyManila/posts>

Next steps

- Focus is next placed on vulnerable communities, including those in GIDA locations
- Livelihood activities will be a target in WFSs. Partnerships with local NGOs will be explored to address the need for new skill building and economic empowerment.
- Many municipalities in the affected areas have elected new government representatives which may affect the continuity and sustainability of the response interventions established to date. UNFPA trained regional-level GBV service providers may be reassigned to other departments when elected officials assume their roles by June 30. There is a need for sensitization and advocacy efforts to ensure that GBV concerns are prioritized.
- Continued focus on strengthening of information management systems for Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) for both Southern Leyte and Caraga Region.
- Case management training is being planned for roll out in three typhoon-affected Provinces to ensure that case managers at the WCPU understand and offer quality and non-judgemental survivor centered support services.
- There is a need to review operational policies for GBV/CP facilities, including the Children and Youth Crisis Center (CYCC), for relevance and responsiveness.
- SRH coordination mechanisms will focus on strengthening the collaboration between humanitarian actors responding to SRH needs and priorities, particularly in the transitioning to early recovery.
- Progress monitoring must be intensified for all ongoing repairs for both health facilities and women and children's protection desks (WCPDs) to ensure construction is completed in a timely manner.

In the Know: Women Friendly Spaces



UNFPA's women-friendly spaces are providing a safe place for women and girls to rest and receive referrals to support services, including health care, psychosocial support and counseling, and professional case management for survivors of gender-based violence. Information sessions on reproductive health, particularly on family planning and prevention of gender-based violence are also made available. The ability for women and girls to socialize is immeasurable after a disaster. The WFS also provides the opportunity for networking, debriefing, planning for the future, and rebuilding a sense of normalcy.

In 2012, Department of Social Welfare and Development with support from UNFPA first introduced the concept of "Women-friendly space" (WFS) in evacuation camps for communities affected by Typhoon Washi to ensure that health and social services, including opportunities for livelihood, that cater to women and girls will be accessible to the female survivors of the floods. Because of the essential services provided by the WFS, humanitarian response agencies and local governments recognized the need to strengthen the concept, as well as improve the capacity of service providers.

For further information, please contact

- **Dr Leila Joudane**, Country Representative, UNFPA Philippines, joudane@unfpa.org
- **Diana Garde**, International Humanitarian Coordinator, garde@unfpa.org
- **Rai Buenaventura**, Humanitarian Project Coordinator, buenaventura@unfpa.org

UNFPA Partners:



References:

¹ Regional Dengue Surveillance Reports: Surigao Del Norte and Dinagat Island. Regional Epidemiology Surveillance & Statistics Unit, Department of Health

² Philippines: Super Typhoon Rai (Odette) Situation Report No. 9 <https://reliefweb.int/report/philippines/philippines-super-typhoon-rai-odette-situation-report-no-9-26-may-2022>

³ DSWD DROMIC Report #145 on Typhoon "ODETTE" as of 20 May 2022, 6PM <https://reliefweb.int/report/philippines/dswd-dromic-report-145-typhoon-odette-20-may-2022-6pm>

⁴ IDP PROTECTION ASSESSMENT REPORT (IDPPAR) Displacement due to Super Typhoon Rai (Odette) Reporting Period: 01 – 30 April 2022 <https://reliefweb.int/report/philippines/idp-protection-assessment-report-idppar-displacement-due-typhoon-rai-odette-2>