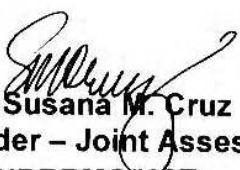


**Joint  
National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council  
(NDRRMC), Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) / IASC Cluster  
Leads  
Assessment Mission in Isabela Province  
23-24 October 2010**



  
**Dir. Susana M. Cruz  
Team Leader – Joint Assessment Team  
NDRRMC/HCT**



## **CONTENTS:**

A. Acknowledgement	Page 3
B. Overview of the Situation	Page 3
C. Purpose and objectives of the assessment	Page 4
D. Methodology	Page 4
E. Areas Covered	Page 4
F. Assessment Team's Activities and Findings	Page 4
G. Priority Needs Overview	Page 7
H. Key Recommendations	Page 7

## **A. Acknowledgement**

The joint assessment team would like to thank all who supported this mission, especially the Office of Civil Defense Regional Center in Region 2 headed by Dir. Noma C Talosig; Provincial Governor of Isabela, Honorable Faustino G. Dy III; Commanding Officer TOG-2 Cauayan City, LtCol Glicerio G Peralta; Executive Assistant to the Isabela Provincial Governor Mr. Gerry Montero; GSO – Isabela Mr. Rogelio Sawit; Tumauni Mayor Honorable Venus T. Bautista; Ilagan Mayor Honorable Jose Marie L. Diaz; Divilican Mayor Honorable Honorable Venturito C. Bulan; Maconacon Mayor Honorable Erlinda M. Domingo, the local officials and residents for local facilitation and provision of vehicles and other logistical requirements.

Assessment Team Members:

Team Leader: Dir. Susana M Cruz (OCD)

Members : Ms. Bess Lim (DA), Ms. Annabel Arrieta and Engr. Honesto Pardo (DSWD),  
Ms. Jacqueline Manara (OCD), Ms. Agnes Palacio (UNOCHA),  
Mr. Ovais Sarmad (IOM), Mr. Dave Bercasio (IOM), Ms. Carla Lacerda (WFP),  
Mr. Dragoslav Djuraskovic (WFP)

## **B. OVERVIEW OF THE SITUATION**

On 17 October 2010, Typhoon Megi (locally named Juan) entered the Philippine Area of Responsibility (PAR) and made land fall in the mountain range of Sierra Madre, Isabela Province, Cagayan Region at 11:25\_a.m. on 18 October 2010. Typhoon Megi brought winds with strength reaching 225 kilometers per hour (kph) near the centre and gustiness of up to 260 kph.

The Provincial government of Isabela in its report dated 22 October 2010 has indicated the following effects:

### **a. Social Sector**

A total of 154,171 families (691,376 persons) were affected in 699 barangays in 33 municipalities. Eight were reported to have died and 105 injured. There were 80 evacuation centers that were established. Totally damaged houses were 24, 171 and partially damaged houses were 70,186.

### **b. Economic Sector**

Total cost of damage to agricultural products and facilities was estimated at Philippine pesos (Php) 1,909,978,880.97 (approximately US\$44,232,952.32).

The information given by Office of the Governor/ PDRRMC on the losses and damages in the agriculture sector, particularly the rice and corn losses are within the ranges monitored and evaluated by the Department of Agriculture RFU 2.



c. Infrastructure Sector

- o Cost of damage to infrastructure such as roads, bridges, power transmission, communications and buildings was estimated at PhP100,453,000.00 (approximately \$2,326,640).
- o Some farm to market roads remained inaccessible.

## C. PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES OF THE ASSESSMENT

The objectives of the mission intend to do the following:

- To identify the immediate humanitarian and early recovery needs of the people affected by Typhoon Megi.
- To determine the gaps and provide recommendations.
- To assess the need to launch an international appeal.

## D. METHODOLOGY

Following the guidelines set forth by the NDRRMC Circular No. 1, the assessment team conducted coordination meetings, interviews with the regional and local officials, group discussions; aerial surveys and field visits.

A family whose house has been totally damaged and is now staying with a relative was also interviewed.

## E. AREAS COVERED

- Iligan City and Tumauni Municipality in the mainland of Isabela province;
- Maconacon and Divilican municipalities, two of the four coastal towns of Isabela facing the Eastern Seaboard

### Limitations of the assessment team

- The mission was not able to cover other affected regions;
- It was not able to conduct a thorough assessment of coastal areas;
- The team was not able to interview more affected households.

**Note:** Due to time constraints and limited resources, the assessment team was only able to visit three municipalities of Isabela (Tumauni, Divilican, Maconacon) and the City of Iligan.

## F. ASSESSMENT TEAM'S ACTIVITIES AND FINDINGS

The assessment team gathered the following information:

### 1. Affected Population

Municipality	Affected		Barangays
	Families	Persons	
Maconacon	1,069	4,532	10
Divilican	1,082	4,869	12
Tumauni	8,771	43,855	46
Iligan	41,735	166,940	91

## 2. Damaged Houses

Municipality	Families	Affected		
		Totally	Partially	Grand Total
Maconacon	1,069	909 (85%)	160 (15%)	1069 (100%)
Divilican	1,082	180 (17%)	239 (22%)	419 (100%)
Tumauni	8,771	642 (17%)	2,152 (25%)	2,794 (32%)
Ilagan	41,735	6,200 (15%)	15,000 (36%)	21,200(51%)

## 3. Other Damaged Infrastructures

Municipality	Day Care Centers	Affected		
		Health Centers	School	Other Buildings
Maconacon*	10	4	28 rooms	15
Divilican			unaccounted	Unaccounted
Tumauni	15	unaccounted	unaccounted	Unaccounted
Ilagan	100	unaccounted	unaccounted	unaccounted

\* Other infrastructures damaged include roads, local bridges, ports, airstrip, public cemetery and a cellular site.

## G. Government Response

### Department of Agriculture

The Department of Agriculture Regional Field Unit No. 2, in coordination with the Municipal Agricultural Officers and the agricultural technicians, is monitoring and validating reports on production losses in rice, corn, other crops, livestock/ poultry and fisheries, as well as damages to agricultural facilities and infrastructure. Completely and partially-damaged crops in various growth stages are distinctly being determined. The rates or chances of recovery of the standing crops are now being re-evaluated.

In coordination with the LGUs, the affected farmers are “masterlisted” preparatory to the provision of rehabilitation assistance by the Department. In conference with the seed growers and seed companies operating in the area, the DA RFU 2 is conducting an inventory of available seeds to be used for rehab/ replanting.

With regard to the reported damaged rice-mill in Maconacon, the DA RFU 2 will deploy some technical staff to the said town to look into its overall agriculture situation, to determine the specific needs there and the DA's specific interventions/responses.

## Key Findings

All primary and secondary roads between Isabela and Tuguegarao, Cagayan were fully accessible to road transport (Note: There are no roads to the four coastal municipalities east of Sierra Madre mountain range, which can only be reached by air or boat). Electric power supply in remote areas may not be restored within 30 days.

After the rescue operations, the PDRPMC provided relief assistance including temporary shelter to the survivors of the typhoon especially to the readily accessible areas. Clearing operations has been conducted with the help of the 5<sup>th</sup> ID, PA, 202<sup>nd</sup> CDC, ARESCOM, ISRR-Alpha Coy members, ENRO and PGSO personnel. For areas that were not accessible by road, air support was provided by the Philippine Air Force and the US Government.

There were no displaced persons in the evacuation centers since all have returned to their places of origin. Families were either rebuilding their houses or had constructed makeshift shelters with materials from their destroyed houses. Others whose houses were totally damaged were staying with their relatives. Priority of the affected families is to rebuild their destroyed houses.

Key respondents from the mainland (Tumauini and Ilagan City) have reported that apart from food, urgent needs include shelter, livelihood support and water.

#### Food Security

##### *Harvested Crops*

- Some farmers were able to harvest crops (rice and corn) prior to the Typhoon. In Ilagan, the percentages of the harvested crops are: 96% of corn; 17%-20% of rice. In Tumauini, the percentages are: 85% of harvested corn and 46% of harvested rice. (The details are supplemented by the DA based on its available database and information from the DA RFU2.) Palay (in sacks) were positioned for drying along the national highway from Tuguegarao to Cauayan.

##### *Warehouse, milling and food stocks*

- Warehouses and milling infrastructure were damaged, however it was not determined if these were damaged beyond service. It is yet unclear how much tonnage of food commodities were impacted by these damages. Of the 30,000 rice stocks in the Tumauini NFA warehouse, 10,000 sacks were damaged (30%);
- In Maconacon, rice stocks are up to November. Rice mill facility was damaged;
- NFA Isabela has reported (also in Bombo radio) that there are 500,000 sacks of rice and another 500,000 sacks of palay in its warehouses.
- It is understood that the most affected municipalities have food stocks that will last from seven to 14 days.
- 250 boxes of high energy biscuits were observed being brought into Maconacon on 22 October, which is part of 17 mt to be dispatched to coastal and inland municipalities of Isabela province by DSWD.

##### *Market*

- The assessment mission was able to observe the increase of essential food commodities in some locations, including rice going from Php 28 to Php 32 in two days according to a household interview;

#### *Household food security*

- Negative coping strategies include: a) borrowing money and food from neighbors; b) replacement of income activities to rehabilitate shelter; c) reduction of meal frequencies.

#### *Assistance*

- Far flung municipalities of Divilican, Maconacon and Palanan were provided with 15 days food assistance by combined DSWD and provincial government resources.
- After 15 days the DSWD will sustain food assistance thru food for work while restoring their communities such as clearing of areas, repair of houses and other community activities;
- Damaged rice stocks in Maconacon were WFP rice intended for food for work for Ketsana/Parma. Specifically, 600 (sacks of 50 kg) out of the 800 bags available were reported damaged by the Mayor of Maconacon. It is understood that nearly a 100 mt of that rice was distributed as immediate relief in Isabela province alone.
- Remaining stocks of rice in Maconacon is being used for food for work activities such as road clearing operations and school repairs;

#### *Needs*

- Continued support of resources (food and cash) for early recovery activities is urgently needed.

#### *Emergency Shelter*

- Prices of housing materials such as galvanized iron, nails, lumber have gone up by 50%;
- In Tumauni, 1,589 tents are needed by families whose houses were totally damaged;
- Also needed are tarpaulins and construction materials;
- Big tents are needed in Tumauni to be used as temporary classrooms;
- The municipal government of Tumauni received lumbers from donors to be used for repair of damaged school buildings;
- 85% of the houses in Maconacon were totally damaged and 15% are with partial damages. Houses that were partially damaged are concrete houses with roofs blown away.

#### *WASH*

- Water purification facilities in the coastal municipalities were damaged because of sea water intrusion.

#### *Health*

- One case of dengue and needing evacuation was reported in Maconacon;
- Medicines for hypertension and colds are requested in Maconacon



#### Livelihood

- Bancas were damaged in the coastal towns;
- Rice mill in Maconacon is damaged.

#### Non Food Items

- The following requirements are mosquito nets, slippers, kitchen utensils, mats, blankets and school supplies

#### Logistics

- Transport of relief supplies to the affected coastal areas is a challenge;
- For areas that are not accessible, air support is provided by the Philippine Air Force and the US government. (120 mt of relief goods was airlifted by helicopters from airport Cauayan to inaccessible coastal municipalities in Isabela).

### **G. KEY RECOMMENDATIONS**

- RDRRMC, through the clusters, assist the PDRRMC to conduct a detailed and in-depth damage and needs assessments in all the critically affected areas in Regions II, I and CAR;
- RDRRMC to closely monitor the logistics needs in the affected areas and to coordinate with NDRRMC for other logistical requirements that are not available in the region and provide logistics information to NGOs and INGOs such as flight/loading schedules and port of loading/unloading.
- NDRRMC to sustain provision of logistics services that are not available in the region particularly for the coastal areas of Isabela.
- NDRRMC/RDRRMC to provide humanitarian assistance as necessary: shelter, food, livelihood, NFIs, health and WASH.
- NDRRMC/RDRRMC to support early recovery needs, including food-for-work/cash-for-work.
- DSWD to provide Critical Incident Stress Debriefing (CISD) and identify areas that needs to be prioritized;
- To strengthen information management at all levels;
- To immediately deliver non-food items like kitchen utensils, mats, blankets, mosquito nets, slippers, school supplies, etc.;
- In large scale emergencies such as Typhoon Megi, the conduct of a joint rapid needs assessment should be institutionalized to ensure the timely and efficient provision of humanitarian assistance to the most vulnerable. NDRRMC and HCT to agree on a joint rapid needs assessment framework.



VIP Lounge Tactical Operations Group, PAF, Cauayan City Isabela  
October 24, 2010





























## ANNEX

### A. List Of Acronyms

- ❖ **AFP** - Armed Forces of the Philippines;
- ❖ **CISD** – Critical Incident Stress Debriefing;
- ❖ **DSWD** – Department of Social Welfare and Development;
- ❖ **HCT** – Humanitarian Coordination Team;
- ❖ **IOM**- International Organization for Migration;
- ❖ **NDRRMC** – National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council;
- ❖ **OCD** – Office of Civil Defense;
- ❖ **PAR** – Philippine Area of Responsibility;
- ❖ **PDRRMC** – Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council;
- ❖ **UNOCHA**- United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs;
- ❖ **WFP**- World Food Programme

### B. Key Activities

#### Day 1 (23 October 2010)

- ❖ At 0730H WFP, IOM and UNOCHA team departed for Tuguegarao.
- ❖ The mission team was greeted by National and Regional DSWD and Regional OCD.
- ❖ The team traveled to southern typhoon affected areas of Isabela (200 km) where they interviewed 2 LGUs and 1 affected Household and visited 1 damaged NFA warehouse (w/ 30% of 30,000 bags destroyed)
- ❖ Arrival at Cauayan military base where the mission was informed that planned helicopter land assessment of coastal areas would be postponed to the following morning due to technical problems
- ❖ Philippines airforce officer informed that day the airforce successfully completed dispatch of 1,000 boxes of biscuits to coastal areas
- ❖ WFP spent overnight in Santiago; OCHA and IOM spent overnight in Cauayan

#### Day 2 (24 October 2010)

- ❖ 0730H arrival at Cauayan base. – The mission was informed that the helicopter was not ready and assessment will be scheduled later.
- ❖ Mission witnessed the arrival of a Philippine Airforce C130 and dispatch of relief goods including nearly 630 boxes of WFP high energy biscuits (2.5 MT) from Villamor airbase (Manila)
- ❖ The mission received more information from DSWD/OCD representatives and military officers regarding situation and problems in delivery relief items to the coastal municipalities

- ❖ At 1000H an aerial assessment of coastal municipalities was conducted with Cessna 172 airplane provided by the Air Force to three mission members only (2 WFP and 1 IOM)
- ❖ Aerial assessment was conducted at 1500m to 300m altitude crossing Sierra Madre and coastal municipalities. Devastated individual (shelter) and public (road/ bridges) infrastructure, forests and settlements were observed.
- ❖ Mission met with OCD, DSWD, PSWD representatives to discuss general findings as well as needs and transport/ delivery of relief.
- ❖ At 1400H a rescue helicopter was made available for land assessment of Divilican and Maconacon only. Given the deteriorating weather condition, the assessment teams were asked to limit the time of stay in the target municipalities. WFP did not join because their flight back to Manila is at 1650H.
- ❖ IOM, DSWD Regional Office and staff from the provincial government were dropped in Divilican while OCHA and DSWD were flown to Maconacon.
- ❖ A briefing was conducted by the assessment team from Maconacon and Divilican for the National/Regional OCD, DSWD and PSWDOs.

October 26, 2010

- ❖ A meeting attended by the assessment team was held at the Conference Room, NDMC Bldg, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City to discuss and finalize the joint assessment report