



**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
Total Affected Population	3.6 million	National Disaster Coordination Council
Dead	1,060	December 14, 2004
Injured	1,023	
Missing	566	
Houses Destroyed	38,358	
Displaced population	880,000	
Houses Damaged	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.

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.