



WFP Philippines
SPECIAL OPERATION SO (Number TBC)

Country:	Philippines
Type of project:	Special Operation
Title:	Food Security and Agriculture Cluster coordination in response to Typhoon Haiyan (Yolanda) in the Philippines
Total cost (US\$):	1,745,254
Duration:	6 months (20 November 2013 – 20 May 2014)

Executive Summary

On 8 November 2013, Super Typhoon Haiyan (category 5) made landfall on the Philippines devastating 36 provinces with the eye passing through Eastern Samar, Leyte, Cebu, Hoilo, Antique and Palawan. The typhoon left in its path a great magnitude of damage, destruction and human loss.

As of 12 November, 11.3 million persons are reported to be affected across nine regions and at least 554,600 are displaced¹. The Government of the Philippines has declared a “state of calamity” and requested international humanitarian assistance of which food was classified amongst the immediate priorities².

As of 12 November it was estimated that some 2.5 million people are in need of food assistance. However, the ongoing Multi Cluster/Sectoral Initial Rapid Assessment (MIRA) will provide new numbers in the coming days. It is also estimated that over a million farmer and fishing households will need assistance to restore their livelihoods³; this figure is likely to increase dramatically with the ongoing assessments and analysis.

Through this Special Operation, WFP and FAO as the co-leads of the Food Security and Agriculture Cluster (FS&AC) will support the Government of the Philippines relief efforts by:

- Coordinating food assistance and agricultural sector activities at the national and sub national level, through effective support of key stakeholders including the Government of the Philippines (national and local), civil society, food security and agriculture cluster partners, other clusters and donors implementing programmes in the sector.

¹ OCHA Philippines “Philippines Typhoon Haiyan Situation Report No. 7.”

<http://docustore.wfp.org/stellent/groups/public/documents/ep/wfp260796.pdf>

² OCHA Philippines “Philippines: Typhoon Haiyan Action Plan, November 2013”

<http://foodsecuritycluster.net/sites/default/files/20131112%20Philippines%20-%20Haiyan%20Action%20Plan.pdf>

³ OCHA Philippines “Philippines Typhoon Haiyan Situation Report No. 7.”

<http://docustore.wfp.org/stellent/groups/public/documents/ep/wfp260796.pdf>

- Managing information flows including data analysis and reporting
- Guiding the sectoral global support response including direct assistance to coordination teams, to OCHA and other partners' assessments and reporting initiatives, IASC liaison and surge support.

Project Background

1. Typhoon Haiyan – a category five storm – was recorded as the strongest cyclone to ever make landfall. With wind speeds up to 235 km/h and gusts up to 275 kilometers per hour, the 600 kilometre-wide typhoon ripped through the country, with Eastern Samar and Leyte Provinces bearing the brunt of the damage.
2. As of the 13 November there were approximately 25 International humanitarian agencies already operating in Tacloban City, one of the main focal areas in need of immediate humanitarian assistance⁴.
3. There is an estimated 2.5 million – at a minimum - people who require food assistance in the affected area including those displaced from the earthquake in Bohol province in December 2012. These vulnerable groups are at a greater risk of future food and livelihood insecurity.
4. According to initial estimates a million farming and fishing households will need assistance to restore their livelihoods. Livestock has also been severely impacted.
5. There is widespread damage to rural infrastructure, including irrigation.
6. Preliminary estimates also indicate that hundreds of thousands of hectares of rice and other key crops (e.g. coconut trees) have been destroyed or damaged.
7. Logistics access and constraints provide a challenge given the destruction in the region coupled with flash floods, landslides and wind damage.

Project Justification

8. There are a large number of humanitarian agencies already on the ground and more are arriving in all the impacted areas, resulting in a need for a coherent, coordinated approach. In order to ensure a coordinated and comprehensive response that avoids duplication and gaps, a strong and well organized sectoral infrastructure must be developed. It is anticipated that in addition to the national coordination hubs there will be a further three sub national teams required to provide coordination support in the affected areas. These sub national hubs are being established now that a critical number of partners have started operations. The FS&AC team is operational in Tacloban and has already had two meetings. The Roxas team will be operational within the coming days.

⁴ OCHA Philippines “Philippines Typhoon Haiyan Situation Report No. 7.”
<http://docustore.wfp.org/stellent/groups/public/documents/ep/wfp260796.pdf>

9. Joint strategic response planning will take place with the key stakeholders including the Government of Philippines (national and local), civil society, food security and agriculture cluster partners, other clusters and donors. This will strengthen the response and accountability to the affected populations.
10. The FS&AC will be the platform whereupon food security needs are assessed (as appropriate data aggregated by gender, age, disability and diversity), analyzed, through IPC and other approaches, and disseminated to all relevant stakeholders for appropriate response targeting. The FS&AC will work closely with the other clusters especially Nutrition, Health and WASH. The global coordinator for the four clusters have already committed to joint planning, where relevant. The national and sub-national teams in the Philippines are participating in coordination and inter-cluster meetings and cross-cutting issue related meetings.
11. The FS&AC will endeavor that all elements of the IASC project cycle are coordinated including assessments, data analysis, response analysis, AAP and monitoring and evaluation.
12. Resilience building activities will be promoted at the onset of operations, ensuring a smooth transition of emergency response to recovery and handover to the Government of the Philippines.
13. Due to the high level of needs and the global scale of the consequent response, global coordination and collaboration is essential amongst and between IASC partners and clusters. A surge support capacity has been and will be deployed from the Global Support Team as and when required.

Project Objective(s)

The main objectives of this operation are to:

- Ensure the coordination of response and recovery actions at national and sub national levels through the development of strategic action plans that include inter-sectoral assessment, assessment analysis, response analysis and M&E.
- Deliver predictable and accountable leadership and coordination on the food security and agriculture responses.
- Identify gaps and support partners in implementing responses.
- Strengthen existing national and local humanitarian management and coordination systems, building on local capacities through the active participation of women and men from the affected population.
- Optimize collaboration and partnerships with governments, UN agencies, NGOs, The Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, donors and other stakeholders to ensure a holistic response.
- Provide surge support for coordination and information management needs and other technical expertise as required.

Project Implementation

14. WFP and FAO, the co-leads for the FS&AC, will set up coordination teams which will work closely with the Government of the Philippines, affected populations and humanitarian communities to identify gaps, needs and duplications in the humanitarian response.
15. This special operation accommodates the essential FS&AC requirements to ensure the appropriate coordination and information management support to the Government of the Philippines and humanitarian community.
16. On-going assessments and updates from partners will determine the establishment of sub-national coordination hubs.
17. Feedback collected through monitoring, evaluation and feedback mechanisms is continuously used to self-correct and deliver results.
18. The FS&AC will serve as a platform for a post-shock IPC analysis, following on from a similar pilot in response to Typhoon Bopha in Mindanao in February 2013. Technical leadership will be provided by the national IPC Technical Working group that is multi-agency and overseen by the National Nutrition Council of the Philippines Government, supported by the IPC Asia Regional Coordinator, who is based in FAO RAP Bangkok, and the Rome based IPC Global Support Team. The IPC analysis will draw together results from the multi-sectoral assessments e.g. MIRA and those carried out by individual institutions over the coming days in order to provide an evidence-based, comprehensive food security vulnerability analysis, which can then be used by cluster partners in coordinated response planning and guiding interventions.

Project Management

19. The Country Director will be the fund manager for this Special Operation. A National Cluster Coordinator has been appointed as project manager. The Head of Finance will be the Allotment Manager.

Project Cost and Benefits

20. This Special Operation has a total cost of US\$ 1,745,254. This is expected to provide the necessary FS&AC support to ensure that food security needs for individuals and communities in humanitarian crises are effectively coordinated.

Monitoring & Evaluation

21. The key performance indicators are:
 - Development of a strategic plan for both the short-term and medium term response
 - Coordination of responses and strategic response guidance

- Reporting (4W), monitoring and gaps identification
- Development and application of technical standards and collection/dissemination of best practices
- Strategic Response Plan will be prepared with all stakeholders for national and sub-national coordination.
- Advocacy and resource mobilization
- Strengthening the capacity of humanitarian actors through effective coordination, introduction of IPC and the resolution of technical issues.

22. The above performance indicators will be monitored and reported back through

- The IASC Cluster activation Checklist. This is a performance checklist on cluster activation and implementation to manage the commitments of the cluster to be completed at 2 weeks, 1 month and 2 months after declaration of an L3.
- Coordination performance monitoring report will be conducted by partners at a later stage. This is a self-assessment tool for the FS&AC in order to improve its performance of its coordination functions

Risk Assessment and Mitigation

23. The situation in Philippines after the Typhoon Haiyan is still fluid which creates several operational challenges. The capacity of humanitarian actors to implement programmes is also at risk due to the damage created by the typhoon. It is likely that any new natural disaster or an epidemic resulting from poor sanitation, hygiene or weak nutritional status of the population could further hamper the emergency response. The FS&AC, in order to address the key risks will undertake the following mitigation activities:

Contextual Risks:

- Restriction on physical access has delayed and increased response times for both assessments and operations in the affected areas.
- There have been reported incidents of looting in the aftermath of the typhoon.

Mitigation Measures:

- Coordinate with UNDSS to monitor the security situation in the typhoon affected areas.
- Close collaboration with the other clusters on the health, nutrition and hygiene status of the affected population.
- The FS&AC will continuously monitor the risks related to the weather conditions and take necessary measures.

Programmatic Risks:

- Food security humanitarian actors are under substantial pressure and therefore information sharing may not be a priority which could potentially result in both gaps and duplication of assistance.

Mitigation Measures:

- Regular and informative cluster meetings at the national and sub-national level to ensure the FS&AC is capturing and reporting on all food security related activities.

Exit Strategy

24. It is expected that this Special Operation will end in May 2014. The FS&AC will work closely with the government national authorities on the immediate life-saving activities but also on initiatives designed to build agriculture related livelihoods and the resilience of the affected populations. FS&AC in consultation with the Government and the Inter-Agency Humanitarian Evaluation (IAHE) will ensure smooth transition of FS&AC activities to the appropriate authorities. The closure of the SO will be upon the formal request of the HC/HCT to transfer the FS&AC coordination responsibilities to the Government of the Philippines.

RECOMMENDATION

This Special Operation covering the period from 20 November 2013 to 20 May 2014 at a total cost to WFP of US\$ 1,745,254 is recommended for approval by the Deputy Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer, under the Executive Director's delegated authority, with the budget provided.

APPROVAL

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Amir Abdulla

Deputy Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer