



# 2021 TYPHOON RAI (ODETTE)

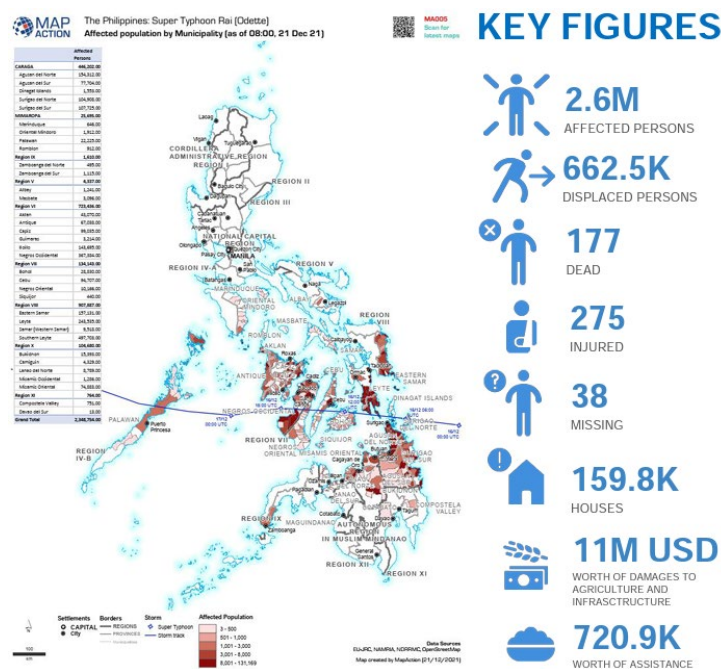
Situation Report #02  
22 December 2021

## Overview

Twenty-seven NetHope members were implementing programs in the Philippines when the typhoon struck the country. NetHope held its first member coordination call on December 22. Most NetHope members are still completing their damage and needs assessments and expect to have detailed information at the end of the week. Some members have deployed small relief teams to the affected regions. Initial information from NetHope members on-the-ground confirm the reports from other disaster response and UN agencies. **Power and connectivity are sorely needed for humanitarian organizations to provide assistance and coordinate their efforts and for the affected communities to communicate with their loved ones.** Early requests indicate that satellite connectivity and power sources are priority needs.

Six days after Typhoon Rai (Odette) made landfall, a clearer picture has emerged on the effects of the typhoon and immediate needs of the affected population as humanitarian agencies complete their rapid assessments. Up-to-date figures of the impact of the typhoon is shown in Figure 1. Regions V, VI, VII, VIII, X, XI, MIMAROPA, and Caraga are the areas directly affected. Reports suggest that Caraga and Regions VI, VII, VIII, and MIMAROPA were hit hardest, with communities in Surigao del Norte, Dinagat Island, Southern Leyte, Bohol, and Cebu most severely affected. To unlock resources and expedite relief and assistance, a state of calamity was declared in many regions for a period of one year. It is expected that other regions will follow suit.

FIGURE 1. IMPACT OF TYPHOON RAI (ODETTE)



On December 19, the Government of the Philippines through the Secretary of National Defense and Chair of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC), formally requested international assistance to support the provision of the most immediate needs in the affected area.

A joint rapid assessment of eight UN agencies and 16 international and local non-governmental organizations

(NGOs) and foundations<sup>1</sup> identified the following as the immediate priority needs: food, potable water, temporary shelter, fuel, hygiene kits, medical supplies, and protection services. The affected people expressed preference of cash assistance to access local markets, where they had been restored. Long-term recovery will become a priority for the region still not fully recovered from devastation of previous typhoons. Further, up to 49% of people in the worst affected areas live below the poverty line.

Power and telecommunications infrastructure suffered severe damage due to the typhoon. According to the

Consolidated Rapid Assessment Report<sup>2</sup>, 136 cities/municipalities experienced telecommunications interruptions with only 78% restored while 227 cities/municipalities experienced outages with only 9% restored as of December 20<sup>th</sup>. Palawan, which does not typically experience severe damage during typhoons, was among the hardest hit and may require significant support as its communities are less experienced in disaster response and recovery. As of December 20, little information has surfaced on the extent of damage due to lack of power and communications infrastructure.

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## Challenges

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**Access to affected areas, travel restrictions due to COVID-19, and political situation** are main concerns for all humanitarian organizations delivering aid and assistance.

Damage and debris on roads that provide primary access to the affected areas hinder or significantly delay transportation of supplies and personnel. The full extent of damage for the hardest areas remains unknown as they have been inaccessible to commercial transport. The Government of Philippines have closed or restricted operations at 80 seaports and cancelled over 160 domestic and international flights.

The Government of the Philippines have enacted travel restrictions intended to slow the spread of COVID-19. This includes a mandatory five-day quarantine for all international travelers. Visa processing and approval were limited. As of the writing of this report, the estimated processing time for a visa is one month. Further, each region has imposed their own travel requirements, including additional quarantine periods and travel permits. UN agencies are working with the national and local governments to ease travel restrictions to deliver humanitarian assistance to the affected region.



*Photo credit: Ferdinandh Cabrera/AFP*

The presidential elections will be held on May 22, 2022. The outcome of the election will be in part influenced by the response to the typhoon and already opponents of Bongbong Marcos, the lead candidate, have launched relief operations. This presents the challenge of having relief and recovery efforts being political shredded.

Finally, the Collective Rapid Assessment Report, as of December 19, notes the threat of a new weather system forming over the Pacific which is expected to bring more heavy rains to eastern Visayas and Bicol regions on December 24 and 25 and likely hampering humanitarian assistance and recovery.

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<sup>1</sup> (Humanitarian Country Team (HCT); Inter-Cluster Coordination Group (ICCG); Mindanao Humanitarian Team (MHT), 2021)

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

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## Member Call (22 December 2021)

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NetHope hosted its first member call on December 22. Participants included the Catholic Relief Services, Corus International, FHI360, International Medical Corps, International Rescue Committee, Mercy Corps, OXFAM, Plan International, Samaritan's Purse, Save the Children, SOS Children's Villages, and World Vision International.

**Catholic Relief Services** emergency team has been deployed to the affected areas to conduct an assessment. A report is expected to be completed by the end of the week. Staff have reported that mobile connectivity is available in some areas. Once the assessment is completed, CRS will determine the type of support to be provided.

**Corus International** is preparing to send a response team to Negros Occidental, which is among the areas hardest hit by the typhoon and experienced devastating damages. Planned assistance include the provision of unconditional cash transfer for food and shelter restoration and conditional cash transfer through mobile money, and portable water filtration systems. Corus International is still evaluating a deployment in Palawan. Information gaps due to lack of connectivity is a challenge to decision-making.

**International Medical Corps** deployed staff in Surigao del Norte yesterday to conduct an assessment. Early reports from the staff indicated that connectivity is not working well with only one mobile network operator providing service presently.

**International Rescue Committee** is still organizing its response efforts. IRC does not have presence in the country and as such, do not have equipment and resources pre-positioned. IRC will likely work through its local partners should a decision to respond is made.

**Mercy Corps** does not have operations in the country. Mercy Corps is still evaluating whether to send a response team or not. Staff based in Sri Lanka and Nepal participated in the NetHope Disaster Response Training and willing to deploy if needed.

**OXFAM** staff and local partners are conducting rapid assessment in southern Leyte, Surigao, and parts of Mindanao. Mobile connectivity is working from SMART and PLDT in Siargao Islands and southern Leyte. Power is a challenge. Early reports indicated that power in Bohol, Dinagat Island, and Surigao del Norte will not be restored until 2022. OXFAM is providing WASH, water containers, and emergency items (e.g. sleeping bags) in Siargao Islands.

**Plan International** is serving six locations with over 200 staff in the Philippines. Plan International is prepared to mobilize cash transfers and protection monitors, part of their existing program in the country.

**Samaritan's Purse** have assessment teams in place in Siargao Islands and southern Leyte. They have around 20 staff on the ground, who are distributing food kits and tarps (for temporary shelter). Services provided may expand to distribution of hygiene kits and water filtration.

**Save the Children** assessment indicates that clean water, food, and emergency items are the most pressing needs. They are currently distributing tarps for temporary shelter. Limited manpower is deployed at the moment. Power and connectivity are the main concern of staff who are working in and around the affected area. The office in Ormoc, for example, does not have internet connection with staff relying on pocket Wi-Fi equipment. They have limited sets of office-in-a-box, which includes limited BGANs and satellite phones.

**SOS Children's Villages** is serving eight locations in the country. SOS Children's Villages is providing water purifiers. Electricity and internet connection are disconnected. There are no emergency telecommunications equipment available for the affected areas. Telecommunications companies have not provided any indication on when connectivity will be restored. Specifically, the facility in Cebu requires assistance.

**World Vision International** is conducting rapid assessments in four provinces in central Philippines and

in one region in Mindanao. They are providing hygiene kits, shelter materials, kitchen items, and water purification tablets. Connectivity is unreliable with frequent disruptions in service. Staff stationed in the affected areas have difficulties sending information to the main emergency coordination office in Manila and vice versa.

In addition, the following NetHope members are actively providing assistance in the country:

**CARE**<sup>3</sup> is conducting rapid needs assessment and initial relief distribution activities in coordination with the local government.

**ChildFund International** is providing immediate relief, working with children and families to identify their most urgent needs. ChildFund has launched a funding appeal to deliver essential goods and services to children and families in Bacolod City and San Joaquin. They are also evaluating the response in non-program areas, particularly in northern Mindanao.

Together with disaster coordination agencies and local governments, **Direct Relief** is sending emergency supplies and providing financial support for emergency relief operations.

**Humanitarian OpenStreetMap Team (HOT)** is providing support to the OpenStreetMap Philippines community.

**International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)**<sup>4</sup> has deployed a Humanitarian Caravan to Surigao del Norte and Bohol that consists of water tankers, food trucks, payloaders, ambulance, and other logistical assets, such as fuel containers, shelter tool kits, tarpaulins, hygiene kits, sleeping kits, and generators. In addition, IFRC has sent teams to conduct rapid assessment, clearing operations, ambulance operations, and hot meals distribution.

**Islamic Relief**<sup>5</sup> plans to distribute food, potable drinking water, and hygiene items through its partnerships with local NGOs.

**Relief International** is conducting needs assessments in the affected areas. They are currently planning a wide scale effort to address these needs in coordination with other humanitarian actors in the region. Relief International plans to provide health care resources for those in need, food security support through cash transfers where local markets are functional, and hygiene kits that are created specifically with the needs of women and children in mind, as well as other resources/support as necessary.

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## Next Steps

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NetHope will host another member call on Monday, December 27 at 11:00am GMT / 8:00pm local time (Philippines). ***Please extend the invitation to your colleagues involved in your work in the Philippines.*** The link to the call is:  
<https://nethope.zoom.us/j/88490671594>.

If unable to join the call, you may send feedback via email to [emergency@nethope.org](mailto:emergency@nethope.org). In your email, please include detailed information on what response is your organization conducting in the Philippines, what ICT needs does your organization have, and how can NetHope support your organization.

If your organization or your local partner requires connectivity, please [complete this brief form](#) to request connectivity in your project site. You may also send an email to [emergency@nethope.org](mailto:emergency@nethope.org). In your email, please include the name of the site and address. NetHope will contact you to obtain additional location information.

Once NetHope receives specific requests for connectivity from members, NetHope is prepared to launch a disaster response for Typhoon Rai (Odette). Scale and scope of the disaster response will also depend upon funding and technical resources. NetHope will continue to closely monitor the situation and needs of members on the ground.

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<sup>3</sup> (United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, 2021)

<sup>4</sup> Ibid

<sup>5</sup> Ibid

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## Questions or Comments

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If you have any questions or comments, please reach out to:

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If you are interested in supporting potential response for Typhoon Rai (Odette) and/or future NetHope disaster response analysis, please reach out to:

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