

CCCM RAPID ASSESSMENT IN ROXAS – November 18, 2013

As a follow up to the DTM conducted in 6 evacuation centers on November 17th, an assessment focused on current conditions and impediments to return was conducted at 2 evacuation centers on November 18th. A series of semi-structured interviews and small group discussions were held. Interviewers included both men and women and some groups were mixed or only comprised of one group.

Additionally, discussions were held with the Governor and Deputy Governor of Capiz province as well as the Mayor and Vice-Mayor of Pontevedra. Representing the humanitarian community was the Food, Logistics, and CCCM Cluster. Issues covered included a general overview of the situation, initial thoughts on 'sub-hubs' covering multiple towns in order to encourage the humanitarian community to share common staging and coordination areas, and plans for currently displaced populations.

All below information can be attributed to key informants and has not been independently validated.

General Overview:

-80 to 90 percent of houses are damaged. The most heavily affected are the coastal towns and the mountain towns. For far the mountain towns are the most underserved.

-The biggest issue is overall lack of goods and construction materials are available in the market. During a drive past the market it was open and goods were in the stores. At least one small-scale mill was cutting timber into framing material.

-1-2 months before electricity back fully.

-Banking operations already resuming.

-There are 16 towns heavily affected. It will not be possible for the humanitarian community to develop a presence in all of these places. The government may look to determining asking the humanitarian community to focus on the most heavily affected. The government may identify a few key 'sub-hubs' where coordination could occur. For example, there are four coastal towns: Panitan, Pontevedra, President Rojas, and Pilar. Pontevedra may be a good location from where the other three towns can be serviced.

-Possible storage areas could be civic centers which are managed by each LGU. Some of the civic centers currently host IDP's.

-The government believes that CFW or FFW livelihood programming should begin immediately rather than giving handouts. The 'debris to shelter' program piloted in Mindanao after Pablo was discussed and there was significant interest. MDRRMC would be likely focal point.

-The majority of shops were back up and running. There is a noticeable availability of fruits, vegetables and meat available on the local market for those who are able to purchase these goods.

Displacement:

-There are many squatters living in unsafe zones and the provincial government seeks to relocate them. The government is currently telling them not rebuild in certain areas. The government does not believe that families living in dangerous zones should be allowed to go back.

-70-80% of those who were in evacuation centers have gone back to their homes. Those who remain have no budget to leave.

-Spontaneous settlements exist. Some people are camping along sides of roads and there are no figures regarding this number.

-The majority of people in evacuation centers were women and children. Many of the men are salvaging material and beginning recovery. The places of origin for all of those interviewed were quite close to the evacuation centers

Shelter:

-There is a Philippines National Police (PNP) housing colony of approximately 600-1000 houses. It is being discussed on the provincial level if these can be given to affected rather than PNP.

-For the next 6-12 months no Nipa or Amakan will be available because they were damaged by the typhoon. This province used to produce these in significant quantities.

-Currently there is no public information campaign relating to housing compensation or recovery. It is in the planning stage with the national housing authority. The Congressional housing chairman Congressman Benetez has been actively working on this.

Site visit 1: Davidas Civic Center

-A camp management structure is in place. The camp manager is Compassion International. She also has a deputy. There are currently 200 families living in this site. People are all from the same area and trying to assist themselves. The camp manager's mother had lost her home and was there four days in the camp before she came down with Polio.

-The greatest needs were shelter, medicine and assistance with livelihood. There is one blind person, 2 elderly, one case of an individual with hydroshiplus. Psychosocial assistance was also requested.

-IOM staff indicated that food costs have gone up in the area although the Government has now put in place a law which prohibits the increase of food in the affected areas. This is not however being followed by everyone.

-Anna comes from a family of 8 which includes her mother, father, sister, and 6 children. She cannot return because there is no money to rebuild her house. She believes that the materials required to rebuild are locally available.

-A small group stated that priorities are water, bamboo, CGI, GI wire, and nails. Others added saws, clean clothes, and food.

-It was also indicated that transportation assistance was also requested.

-There are charging sites (paid) which are outside the EC-charging 15 pesos per hour.

-Small shops had also been set up by women inside the EC to sell items.

Site 2: Dona Victoria Elementary School

-The majority of those in the site don't own the land where their houses were located. They rent and the owner is the barangay captain. It is believed that there will be no problem going back to the land as long as they have building material.

-The Vice Governor spoke with the head teacher and stated that they will 'clump' all of the people together in order to open up classroom space for students to resume studies. Classes are supposed to reconvene on Monday. Families are currently 4-6 families per classroom.

-An urgent need for water, food, medical support, shelter, and clean clothes exists. Soap is also highly requested. It was encouraged to have a hand washing campaign. Equally, mosquito nets were also highlighted as important.

-IOM staff indicated that there is a high likelihood of disease to break out, as well as skin diseases. Diarrhea remains high concern. People are in need of TB shots; as well as Tetanus given the rusty nails.

-There is a major tree which has fallen into the entrance way barring a facilitated easy entrance. The Canadians had offered to break this up as they have a large chain saw which can help do so.

-There is a hub manager that is operating there as a Volunteer. There are 205 families residing in the EC. It is very congested and there is no privacy for people.

-Sanitation, hygiene and waste disposal are becoming an issue. The roofing is not sufficient and thus when it rains, this also goes into the building itself.

-There is a large number of children and at least 10 women needing pre-natal care. Moreover, there is a large number of senior citizens who are reported to live there having lost their homes.

-There is also a sense of growing frustration now 10 days after the typhoon and people remain hungry. The last food distribution was on Friday.

-People are still indeed wishing/wanting to go back but at this current stage without the materials/ability to go back.