

Report for the project: “Relief Delivery Operations for the Victims of Tropical Storm Washi (Sendong) in Northern Mindanao, Philippines”

Implemented by: Citizens’ Disaster Response Center

Supported by: Civic Force Japan

1. Operational framework

More than eight weeks ago, Tropical storm Sendong (international name: Washi), entered Northern Mindanao, triggering flash floods and landslides in many municipalities across 14 provinces, affecting some 622,000 people.



Tropical Storm Sendong was the 19th tropical cyclone that entered the Philippine area of responsibility in 2011. It entered PAR on 15 December 2011 as a tropical depression and intensified further into a tropical storm. It made its first landfall at the vicinity of Hinatuan,

Surigao del Sur in the afternoon of December 16 and traversed the provinces of Agusan del Sur, Bukidnon and Misamis Oriental, and the cities of Cagayan de Oro and El Salvador before midnight and caused torrential rains that led to widespread and catastrophic flooding in cities of Cagayan de Oro and Iligan cities. It made its second landfall at the vicinity of Puerto Princesa City, Palawan before it exited out of the country on December 18. Meantime, the Visayas region was not spared, especially Negros Oriental.

According to the government weather agency, the recorded 24-hour rainfall at Lumbia, Cagayan de Oro was 180.9 mm which exceeded its monthly average by 60%. The Hinatuan PAGASA-DOST Station recorded 180.4 mm that correspond to 32% of its monthly average of 555.1 mm and high tide of 1.24 m also occurred late at night of December 16. The intense rainfall in the upstream portion of the CDO river basin flowed in a river gorge resulting to strong current uprooted trees and undermined and scoured river banks. The muddy water full



of sediment and debris flowed downstream and washed out the islets of Isla de Oro and Isla Verde which are located on sandbars (accumulation of sediment through the years every time flooding occurs within the area. The development along the river banks also constricted the flow of flood water to the river mouth. The combined effects of heavy rains that occurred in the upstream parts of the CDO river basin in the evening of December 16 until early morning of December 17, the occurrence of high tide which restricted the flow of flood waters, the

steep topography of the catchment, and the debris into the river exacerbated the impact of flash flood that contributed to the disaster.

Tropical Storm Sendong was the most destructive tropical cyclones for 2011 in terms of dead casualties which reached up to 1,268. According official government data, TS Sendong left in its wake the following impact:



A total of 131,618 families/698,882 persons were affected in 866 barangays of 60 municipalities and 9 cities in the 13 provinces of Regions VI, VII, IX, X, XI, CARAGA, and ARMM. Region X suffered most particularly Cagayan de Oro City in Misamis Oriental and Iligan City in Lanao del Norte.

A total of 1,268 persons were reported dead in Regions V, VII, IX, X, XI, CARAGA and ARMM With Region X having the highest number which is 1,206 (674 in Cagayan de Oro City, 490 in Iligan City and 42 in Bukidnon) while Region VII comes next 38 in Negros Oriental. Other regions have minimal number of deaths. A total of 6,071 persons were reported injured, 181 missing and 441 survivors.

A total of 51,144 houses were damaged in Regions VII, IX, X, XI, CARAGA and ARMM: 13,585 totally and 37,559 Partially. Region X has the highest number which is 39,888 (11,780 totally and 28,108 partially).

The estimated cost of damages to properties in Regions IV-B, V, X and CARAGA amounted to PhP2,068,365,789.00 broken down as follows:

Infrastructure	- PhP1,366,345,647.00
Agriculture	- PhP 309,101,330.00
Private Properties	- PhP 392,918,812.00



The need for assistance to those affected remains a major concern like shelter, relief goods (food and non-food), basic services (medical, education, etc) and temporary livelihood opportunities (food-for-work and cash-for-work).

To date, 17,405 people remain in evacuation centers. Other families with totally damaged houses are staying with friends and relatives. They are still in need of basic necessity such as food and drinking water.

Families with partially damaged houses went back to their communities. However, they need materials for the re-construction of their houses.

There is also a great need for livelihood assistance, especially for families who lost their livelihood.

Providing permanent shelter to those who have lost their homes remains a major challenge. There are delays in the identification of suitable land for permanent relocation of the affected families.

2. Project

2.1. Project objective

CDRC and its local partner in the affected province intend to assist the victims of tropical storm Sendong, particularly the marginal populace. The response is aimed at helping the most vulnerable victims cope up with the situation and prevent further deterioration of their lives.

2.2. Activities and results obtained



CDRC and its Regional Center Panday Bulig launched a Relief Delivery Operation last Dec 31, 2011 in Barangay Bonbon, Cagayan de Oro City. A total of 350 families received food and non-food assistance.

As soon as CDRC received the initial funds from Civic Force (\$1,000.00 or P438,280.75), its Regional Center in Cagayan de Oro City (Panday Bulig) was immediately informed.

Coordination and preparation activities were soon underway. Volunteers were mobilized for the repacking of the relief goods, the relief operations were coordinated with the local officials, the list of beneficiaries was verified, and the distribution site was prepared.

The contents of the relief packs are the following:

- 10 kgs rice
- 1 kg mungo beans
- 1 kg dried fish
- 6 tins sardines
- 500 ml cooking oil
- 1 kg sugar
- 1 bar laundry soap
- Water container
- Mattress
- Blanket



Local officials, especially the Brgy. Captain and the Council were present during the relief delivery operation, ensuring that the activity was successful. The coordination with

the local officials had been smooth and fruitful. Several volunteers were mobilized as well during the repacking and distribution of goods. Former staff members of Panday Bulig were very active in the volunteer group.

The children also enjoyed the additional services rendered by CDRC and PB such as the psychosocial play therapy sessions and feeding.

The beneficiaries also appreciated the educational materials and sessions launched by the team before the relief distribution. The crash course on disaster management orientation helped raise the awareness of the survivors about disasters and what they can do to help themselves.

2.3. Difficulties during implementation

Some of the difficulties encountered by CDRC and PB during the project implementation are the following:

- Finding enough supply of goods from the local market. In order to cope, the team has to source out goods from various stores/suppliers in order to get the required amount of relief items. If not available locally, the goods had to be bought from outside the city.
- There were incidents wherein some individuals from other communities who were not on the list of beneficiaries were demanding to be included in the relief. Fortunately, the community leaders and partner People's Organizations were there to explain to them the process of selection, and why they were not on the list. CDRC and PB prioritized the most affected and least served families.
- Aside from food and non-food items, there is also a need for psychosocial services. CDRC and the Regional Centers were able to provide psychosocial play therapy sessions for children as an add-on component to the relief activity. However, the adults are also in need of counselling, which CDRC referred to the Department of Social Work and Development and other groups specializing in mental health.
- CDRC also had to deal with the clamor from the beneficiaries for their shelter needs and for permanent relocation. CDRC can only assure them that the organization is closely coordinating with the local government for the possibility of providing shelter assistance. The staff also carefully explained that CDRC is still looking for external funding for this rehabilitation project.



Despite the difficulties, there were no major problems encountered during the implementation. The RDO went smoothly through the help of various groups such as the local officials, volunteers and other organizations.

3. Coordination in the Field

CDRC and PB have coordinated with the local officials in the distribution of goods – DSWD, Mayor’s Office, Baranggay Officials, camp managers and other organizations.



4. Visibility and Publicity

CDRC issued press releases to the media, and regularly updated its social networking sites like Facebook to promote the project. Relief activities were also posted on the CDRC website in order to inform the public of the project.

During the relief operations, banners with the logo of the donor were displayed to inform the beneficiaries where the items came from.

5. Feedback from the Beneficiaries

After the relief delivery operation, CDRC conducted an informal feedback session with the beneficiaries in order to assess the relevance and success of the project. During the discussions with the survivors, they expressed their gratitude for the assistance provided. They were thankful that relief goods have reached them. They also expressed satisfaction that the relief packs were generous as compared to other organizations who only give 2-3 kilos of rice. They said that the relief good delivered by CDRC, PB and Civic Force would last them more than a week, instead of only a few days like the other packs that they usually get.

